

## Party leaders to discuss Mr. Man's po victory

The election of Robert Sands, the Provisional prisoner and hunger-striker, as MP for Fagh and South Tyrone faces the Government with a critical decision. Party leaders discuss the matter at the Commons on Monday. Even if he is allowed to keep his seat, he is likely to be dead of starvation soon.

## Commons may expel fasting IRA man

Mr. Christopher Thomas, MP for Fagh and South Tyrone, faces a critical decision on whether to allow Mr. Sands to remain in the Commons. Mr. Sands is a hunger-striker and a member of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA). He was elected as an MP for Fagh and South Tyrone at the recent general election.

	1981	1979	Change
Anti-IRA	52.2%	—	—
Off UUC	48.8%	28.0%	+20.8%
Ind	—	36.0%	—
SDLP	—	17.3%	—
UUP	—	17.0%	—
Alliance	—	1.7%	—
UUC	—	—	—
Marx-Len	—	—	—
Pol	82.3%	87.1%	-4.8%
Voters	72,449	71,481	+868

Mr. Sands intends to continue his 42-day hunger strike and has decided after all not to resign his seat. There seems to be nothing to stop him dying in the next two or three weeks.

He defeated Mr. Harold West, of the Official Unionists by 30,492 votes to 29,046, a majority of 1,446 in an 86.8 per cent poll. The poll figure takes into account spoilt papers.

He is legitimately and properly an MP with immediate effect, but he will not draw a salary, which is payable only after an MP takes his seat.

Mr. Sands, who has served 4 years of a 14-year sentence for possessing firearms, is in the hospital wing of the Maze prison near Belfast and is believed to be displaying the early signs of starvation: dizziness, severe headaches, and loss of weight.

The critical stage comes after 50 days when he might die at any time of a heart attack. He has lost two stone and is too weak to leave his bed. He is likely to be taken to hospital outside the prison next week.

The political implications of his election are grave. It has dealt a severe blow to the stronghold of moderate Roman Catholic opinion, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, from which it may never fully recover.

Mr. Owen Carroll, election agent to Mr. Sands, said that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher had his answer. "The nationalist people on behalf of the Irish people have voted against Unionism and against the H blocks. It is time Britain got out of Ireland and put an end to the suffering of this country."

Mr. Sands' sister, Marcella, aged 26, stood smiling for photographers, and his mother, Mrs. Roseanne Sands, spoke of her pride.

But elsewhere there was dismay. Mr. Gerard Fitt, independent MP for Belfast, West, and formerly a leading member of the SDLP, was at Westminster when the result was announced.

"This result is going to have very serious repercussions," he said. "The IRA got everyone out of the field by threatening and intimidation."

Photograph, page 2  
Leading article, page 13

## Japan angry over US submarine collision

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, April 10  
The United States Navy admitted today that its Polaris submarine, George Washington, collided with the Japanese cargo ship Nissho Maru off the Japanese coast yesterday, but said no help could be given because the crippled ship disappeared in fog and rain.

Two of the 15 crew on the Japanese ship, which went down, are missing. The others were picked up today. The statement said: "The submarine surfaced immediately to offer assistance to the merchant vessel. However, the vessel disappeared from sight due to poor visibility caused by fog and rain. The submarine was unable to observe personnel casualties or damage to the Japanese vessel before its disappearance from view."

Thus the Pentagon corroborates the Japanese claim that the USS George Washington surfaced, looked at the damaged freighter, and then submerged again. It contends, however, that it lost sight of the vessel while on the surface.

The accident took place at 10 am local time yesterday, about 110 miles off Japan, where the submarine was conducting "routine operations at shallow depth". An American aircraft was with the submarine and searched for the freighter, but failed to find it.

As the Pentagon statement put it: "It was later reported that the Japanese merchant vessel sank shortly after the collision." It did not say whether the air search was carried out before the freighter sank.

The Pentagon says that it deeply regrets "this unfortunate accident", and that it is being investigated. The George Washington is described officially as a fleet ballistic missile submarine. It is 116.3 metres long, its beam is 10.1 metres, its draught 8.8 metres and its displacement 6,888 tons. It carries a crew of 112 and its captain is Commander Robert Voehl.

Japanese criticism: The 13 survivors of the Nissho Maru, who arrived in southern Japan tonight, said the submarine came to the surface momentarily after the collision 30 miles off a small Japanese island. They said nobody appeared on its deck and it disappeared back below the waves as the freighter filled with water and sank. (Reuters reports from Tokyo.)

## Computer fault causes another dent to Nasa's hopes of renewed prestige Space shuttle launch postponed until tomorrow

From Michael Leppman  
New York, April 10  
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has its tail between its legs today after yet another delay in its costly and badly troubled space shuttle programme.

The maiden flight of the Columbia, a new concept in space technology, was delayed at least until 8.50 a.m. on Sunday because of a computer problem which appeared less than half an hour before the scheduled launch time.

The dumpy, delta-winged reusable space craft, looking rather like Concorde with middle-age spread, stays on the ground here, hugging its huge fuel tank and twin booster rockets.

The Columbia astronauts, Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen, instead of enjoying the dramatic long-distance view of Earth that they had been looking forward to, were facing two more days of mid-afternoon bed times and caffeine food at their quarters here. "A big huddle of thousands of people who had camped out all night to see the launch went home disappointed."

The frustrated spectators were not half so disappointed, though, as space officials here, who had seen the shuttle as a way to restore Nasa's prestige to the level it enjoyed during the successful moon landings.

The shuttle is already three years behind its first projected launch date, partly through lack of money, but mainly because of serious setbacks in its development.

Yesterday's specific snag was with the back-up computer, which supports the four main computers inside the cabin.

After delays earlier in the week, the countdown over the past two days had been deceptively trouble-free. The fast adrenaline flow provoked by the impending launch, however, was not to last.



Captain Robert Crippen and Commander John Young (front) returning to base.

precise problem was. There seemed to have been a "timing skew" between the back-up and the four main computers and this had interfered with communication. It was, he said, "statistical Murphy".

Asked about the prospects for a Sunday launch, he said: "An awful lot depends on how well we understand the problem."

While the craft can fly and operate with one computer out of action, it is Nasa policy never to launch a space flight with any part of the equipment inoperative.

The countdown was held for three hours but at 10 am (4 pm British Summer Time), it was decided to call off today's attempt.

It was thought that the computer programmers would take at least several hours to look for the cause of the problem and then a limit to the time tomorrow would allow the launch to be delayed.

because of the hydrogen tanks. These have to be drained of their fuel today and, because of the extremely low temperature of the hydrogen, it is unsafe to refill them without waiting at least 24 hours.

It is in any case possible that the computer trouble will take more than two days to resolve. It could mean running through the entire flight programme again—a lengthy process.

Countdown, page 5  
Soviet satellites, page 12  
Leading article, page 13

The launch cannot be rescheduled for earlier than Sunday

## Plea for 6% public pay rise limit next year

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent  
While the Government struggles with the Civil Service, it is also trying to persuade the public to accept a 6 per cent pay increase for 1981.

Mr. Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the Commons, gave a warning last night that public sector pay rises next year should be limited to 5 or 6 per cent.

That was the interpretation put by MPs on his statement to a Conservative meeting in Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, that the Government will be laying its expenditure on a realistic basis of pay rises in the public sector in middle single figures.

He added: "That is all the country can afford. Those who go for more will be putting jobs and their own and others at risk. Those who accept less will be making room for more employment."

Mr. Pym, Minister responsible for coordinating the Government's flow of information on policy, was obviously addressing the trade unions in advance of a conference on pay.

effort, everyone has been making to get the economy moving. It is a very difficult task, but we are doing it. We are doing it because we are committed to it. We are committed to it because we believe in it. We believe in it because we know it is the only way forward.

Mr. Pym said there was no escaping the fact that there were parts of the public sector like those in the nationalised industries in which the Government did not exercise direct control, where the use of the "industrial weapon" could be effective. "That has been particularly true where there is an element of monopoly power," he said.

Mr. Denis Healey, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in Woking, Surrey, last night said that the CBI, the Common Market monetary committee, and Mr. Edward du Cann, the chairman of the Conservative Party in Parliament, nor to speak of the majority of British economists, had all agreed this week on one thing: that Mrs. Thatcher's policies were "doomed to disaster".

"Mrs. Thatcher persists in driving Britain to catastrophe and adding yet another million to the debt queues because she is too proud to admit that she is wrong," Mr. Healey said.

Civil Service dispute, page 2

## Poles face dearer food and 60-day strike ban

Warsaw, April 10—Poland's government today announced a 30-day ban on strikes for a 60-day ban on strikes and for other emergency measures to save the country from total chaos.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, called for the ban in a speech to the Sejm (Parliament) and threatened to resign if his proposals were rejected.

The Solidarity trade union said in response that it did not want to strike, but might do so if its security was threatened. It said it was determined to defend its right to strike.

The 90-day strike moratorium was broken when Solidarity threatened to bring the whole country to a standstill indefinitely over an incident in which

police were alleged to have beaten up a group of students. The Prime Minister was loudly applauded at the end of his speech, leaving little doubt that the Sejm would approve his proposals.

Bar General Jaruzelski also reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the process of political renewal, praised moderates in Solidarity, and said he wanted genuine cooperation with the movement.

The Government also announced that food prices would have to rise because of the country's economic problems. Publicity in the state-controlled press indicated that Poland seems poised to take the politically unpopular step, which has triggered a downfall of two previous administrations.

Officials have emphasized that no new increases would be announced without consultations with Solidarity. — Reuters, Agence France-Presse.

Stock market price surge ends

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor  
Two heady weeks on the London stock market, during which ordinary shares prices have risen almost without respite, ended yesterday morning when the mood changed on rumours that a leading stockbroker firm was in serious financial trouble.

This was confirmed after the market closed when the stock Exchange declared Heddewick Stirling-Crumbar to be in default.

Rumours about Heddewick's difficulties began to circulate in the morning. Until then it had seemed that the market in ordinary shares would reach an all-time high point as measured by the FT ordinary share index, an hourly calculated measure of investor confidence.

Instead the market was stopped in its tracks. After a rise of 6.5 points by noon at 557.4, amazingly short of the record of 558.6 reached on May 4 1979, shares fell back. By the end of trading the index was showing a gain of only 1.5 at 551.3.

Nevertheless, the buoyancy of ordinary share prices since the Budget has suggested that a "bull" market might be under way. Since Budget Day on March 10 the FT ordinary index has risen by 67 points or nearly 14 per cent. More broadly-based indices have reached record levels.

Investors, including large institutions, have been moving available money from gilt-edged investment where they believe the market is suffering from inflation, to equities on the view that the recession has bottomed out.

They expect manufacturing companies, now more efficient as a result of shedding excess capacity and workers during the recession, to report a revival in profits later this year.

Stock market boom, page 12  
Brokers hammered, page 17

## £1.65m price for Poussin disappoints the Duke

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent  
In a nail-biting photo finish the Duke of Devonshire's Poussin painting, a short head to beat the Reserve, was sold yesterday. However, after a steward's inquiry the Reserve was disqualified and the revised result showed Poussin the winner at £1,650,000, plus 10 per cent buyer's premium.

It was one of the oddest of historic sales. The Duke had consigned a great rarity for sale, Nicholas Poussin's Holy Family with the Infant St John, they are accompanied by a group of putti and set in an attractive Italianate landscape. It is dated to the 1650s, a work of the artist's late maturity, and Christie's described it as "one of the most important paintings of this period of the artist's development still in private hands."

When announcing the sale in January, the Duke had explained that the aim was to raise an endowment for the new Charitable Foundation, which is to lease and run Chatsworth, its estate and essential collections for the public benefit. A minimum of £1m is the estimated requirement.

It was clearly hoped that the sale of the Poussin, which had not been on public view at Chatsworth, might cause a stir. This, a Reserve price had been set with Christie's concurrence at £1.7m.

The television camera lights were switched on as the sale of the great painting approached and the bidding started slowly at £500,000. The Duke's third row back had an agonised air. By slow degrees the price rose to £1,550,000, a genuine bid from Guy Wildenstein, a sprig of the great Wildenstein art dealing dynasty. It would have been the natural point for the auctioneer, Mr. Patrick Lindsay, to raise the bidding by another £50,000 jump, but this would have left him on the wrong foot. It was only necessary for the bidding to reach £1.7m to beat the Reserve. He raised the bidding to £1,650,000, hoping to raise a final small (well £50,000) bid out of Wildenstein. But he failed.

The auction broke up in confusion with the Duke lamenting that the painting would have to be sent back to Chatsworth. Then came a rescue call. "Your grace, would you mind having a word with Mr. Lindsay?" In about five minutes, Mr. Wildenstein had near doubled his bid to £2,000,000 to their final bid, and the Duke had thrown in his cards and accepted £1,650,000 for the picture.

After the deal had been struck, the Duke commented: "The more I see of the picture, the safer Chatsworth would have been. This work is sufficient for the endowment; we shall have to sell other assets, but not necessarily art works."

Photograph, page 3

## Herr Hess is ill

Berlin, April 10.—Herr Rudolf Hess, aged 86, Hitler's former deputy, who is serving a life imprisonment in Spandau jail, has pneumonia. A statement issued today by the British military authorities said he was making "satisfactory progress". — Reuters.

## President Reagan to leave hospital this weekend

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, April 10  
President Reagan will leave hospital tomorrow or on Sunday after one final check-up, according to his doctors today. He had "another excellent day" yesterday and slept well last night.

Mr. Reagan was shot on March 30. A photograph published yesterday shows that he has lost weight (about 10lb, according to the doctors) and looks rather haggard. This, we are told, is to be expected from a man recovering from a chest wound.

He has been doing some light work, about six hours a day, and will continue his convalescence in the White House and, then, probably, at Camp David, in the Maryland mountains north of here.

## Haig welcome for British Mid-East role

Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, is understood to favour a bigger British presence in the Middle East, even at the expense of withdrawing some troops from Europe. Although no official confirmation is forthcoming, he apparently laid emphasis in his Whitehall talks yesterday on the value of British diplomatic experience in the region.

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## Finnish Premier defeats critics

Mr. Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish Prime Minister, has won a power struggle against moves within the coalition government to replace him. President Kekkonen is said to have wanted the Prime Minister to resign.

Page 4

## Israel raids Lebanon

Israeli forces carried out land, sea and air attacks on Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon, killing between 14 and 19 people. In one of the largest raids Israeli paratroops landed with guerrillas near the Palestinian stronghold of Nabatiya.

Page 5

## Foot attack on SDP 'South Sea Bubble'

Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour leader, said the Social Democrats' fund-raising methods reminded him of the South Sea Bubble swindle, and Mrs. Shirley Williams said the SDP was thoroughly enjoying a collective leadership and might not choose a leader.

Page 2

## Discrimination: Women in the Civil Service get the lowest jobs, educationists say

Liberal: The Spectator is to pay substantial damages to an Irish author. Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 22, 24; Postal shopping, 22; Home and garden, 22; Entertainment, 7, 8.

Page 3

## Trident TV victory

Trident Television has narrowly retained the Yorkshire television franchise despite two rival bids. It will split from the Tyne Tees Company, ending their lucrative advertising selling agreement.

Page 3

## Gooch's Test century

Graham Gooch scored a magnificent hundred, his second of the series, after England had been put in to bat by West Indies in the final Test match in Jamaica. Gooch reached 100 off only 127 balls.

Page 15

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# Civil Service threat to Easter travel

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Ministers are considering whether to give a more definite outline of a possible future pay formula for the Civil Service in a government statement expected next week.

As the Council of Civil Service Unions stepped up its action yesterday, it was also said in Whitehall that no decision had yet been taken whether or when to bring in Royal Navy personnel for the striking of the Polaris submarine, Resolution, at bases on the Clyde.

Between 20 and 30 civil servants at the secret communications station at Hawlaw, near Perth, yesterday agreed to join the strike with 25 key officials at the Passport Office at Glasgow.

The unions said that the action at the communications centre would affect the surveillance of defence-related signals traffic from monitoring satellites.

The unions expect that the strike at Glasgow will halt the issue of passports there. They claimed that the office has a two to three-week backlog and that Easter is a peak time in which 10,000 applications are handled a week.

The unions will also reveal today a package of disruptive measures they expect to hamper passengers travelling through the ports and airports this Easter. Customs and immigration staff are expected to take action.

Any political initiative, however, rests with ministerial discussions about the form of the Government's statement, which may be made on Wednesday by Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and minister responsible for the Civil Service.

Options under discussion are said to range from a bald restatement of the Government's position to one including a clearer indication of what the

The Council of Civil Service Unions stepped up its disruptive action and promised worse to come. Today the unions plan to unveil a package of measures which they expect to delay passengers using the sea and airports at Easter.

Government intends to be the formula for determining Civil Service pay.

It is thought ministers have been considering whether they would confine themselves to a formula which would run from 1983 or indicate a possible method for determining pay as early as 1982.

Even ministers who might favour the inclusion of a new initiative in a government statement on the dispute are said to be conscious of the dangers of doing so if it ran the risk of immediate rejection by the council, rather than laying the basis for possible talks.

Senior shop stewards representing industrial civil servants at the Faslane and Coulport bases, where the Resolution is due to be refitted, have said they would refuse to do supply and rearmament work under management.

Submarine "will sail", Lord Soames said in Birmingham yesterday that the Resolution would sail despite the civil servants' refusal to carry out vital rearmament and supply work.

He said there was always a submarine on patrol and as far as the Government was concerned, in the interest of the

country it should continue, and it would.

"Whatever is necessary will be done and hopefully it will be done by those meant to do it."

Asked, "If not by them, by others?" he continued: "By what others I do not know, that will be judged by those on the spot. The decision has been taken: the ship will sail, and it is right to try to stop it."

He said that having heard of health service workers setting for 7 per cent, "it makes me all the sadder that the Civil Service are striking for 7 per cent. I told them before they could not improve on the cash limit and that we were ready and waiting to talk to them."

A great number were working loyally for their service and what they regarded as their jobs. Many people would be glad of 7 per cent and the job security which went with it.

"This should not be happening. It is doing the country no damage. I am not trying to put a figure on it of how much money is being stopped here or there, for I do not think that is it."

There is perhaps room for argument about the degree of damage being done but there should not be any damage being done. God knows, the country has no surplus or problems or plate without self-inflicted wounds."

Navy plans: The Royal Navy last night was still considering a number of contingency plans to prevent the sailing of its Polaris submarine force.

Officers, however, would not discuss their plans or any other aspect of the country's strategic deterrent.

How seriously the four-boated deterrent force could be affected by industrial action would depend very much on how long the action lasted.

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Miss Margaret Platt, one of the small group of trade union officials responsible for the civil servants threatening the sailing of the Polaris submarine, Resolution, may be in for a busy weekend.

If the Government decides, as it has indicated it may do, to use Royal Navy personnel to carry out supply and rearmament work on the vessel over the next few days, the Civil Service unions have promised walkouts across the country by their 540,000 members.

Miss Platt, a slightly reserved, former Inland Revenue lawyer, became at 49 a deputy general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants only last Christmas. The highlight into which she has been rapidly thrust by the conflict at the Faslane and Coulport bases is certainly not one she has courted.

While she appeared with aplomb on Radio 2 yesterday, publicity comes to her less naturally than to some of her more extrovert counterparts in the other Civil Service unions.

Yet as convener of the union campaign committee's defence working party she did not shrink then what she sees as her responsibility to speak up for the Ministry of Defence members who incurred the Prime Minister's anger in the Commons on Thursday.

Asked directly about the implications to Britain's defence of the present action, Miss Platt says quietly: "Our people had to think very seriously about the future we ever started the pay campaign."

"Our members did not go into this in a light-hearted way and I think the Prime Minister was misleading people by suggesting otherwise. By implying that they have taken action lightly she is seriously under-rating them."

"They have only got themselves into this situation because of the fact that the Government has so clearly been seen to break agreements. I think that Mrs Thatcher's statement in the Commons will prove counter-productive."

Miss Platt firmly rejects the "market" suggestion that her members at the Scottish bases may be casual about Britain's nuclear defences. The technicians and radiographers, among her 30 members on strike at the two bases, she says crisply, are "people who have chosen to serve in the Ministry of Defence."

"These are people who work alongside naval personnel and see themselves as part of the same community, integrated as part of a joint team in the Ministry of Defence. But the fact very clearly is that they have been treated."

Miss Platt herself is a "middle-of-the-road" Labour sympathiser and points out: "If you believe in unilateral disarmament in tremendous defence cuts you are not likely to come to work for the IPCS." About half of the IPCS membership is in the MOD.

Mr William Wright, the union's other deputy general secretary, is the senior officer directly responsible for the MOD, but Miss Platt presents a different picture of the fact that she is the union's representative on the key joint campaign committee.

She became active in the union initially without any thought of becoming a full-time official in the defence states duty, deputising after leaving Bedford College, London, with a history degree. She read for the bar while working as a civil servant.

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Her weekend could herald a huge walkout

## Woman at centre of Polaris conflict



Miss Margaret Platt: "Action not taken lightly"

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Washhott

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## MPs call for change in taxation rules to save works of art

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

A Treasury document known as the "Yellow Peril", dealing with the rules for exempting works of art from capital taxes, should be withdrawn immediately and a new one, relating to works of art and heritage objects, should be drawn up by the Office of Cultural Assets in consultation with the Treasury.

That is one of several important measures recommended yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts, which has been looking at the tax rules governing the disposal of works of art.

It started the task because of the circumstances of the sale of the Leonardo work known as the Leicester Codex, which was bought by Dr Armand Hammer, and because of the possibility of more works of art in private hands leaving the country.

The committee also recommends that in return for tax exemption an owner should enter details of works of art, their provenance, in the list kept at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Owners' anonymity would be preserved and scholars would have access to the list and opportunity to see the objects. Every museum and gallery would have automatic access to the list and the chance to borrow objects for exhibition.

"Provided an owner cooperated fully in this system," the committee's report says, "there should be no obligation upon him... to hawk his object around to find a museum to display it."

The committee is particularly scathing about the capital tax office and the "Yellow Peril" document.

"It appears," it says, "that those who possess works of art meet with discouraging delays and even obduracy in the capital tax office when they seek to satisfy the conditions concerning exemption from capital taxes. That is particularly so in the case of those owners whose

homes are not suitable for opening to the public."

The adoption of a set of readily understandable rules for the exemption of works of art from capital taxes was of fundamental importance.

The committee recommends that the capital transfer tax concession on the surrender of an object of art should be raised from 25 to 75 per cent. On the question of the surrender of objects in lieu of tax, it deplores the Treasury practice of insisting, when tax is paid in that way rather than in cash, that the transfer has involved public expenditure.

"There should be no attempt to inhibit the already limited purchasing power of secretaries of state, the Office of National Heritage Memorial Fund, by notional transfers of this kind made simply for accounting purposes."

An independent review committee should be established, it says, to determine the heritage status and value of an object; and, in the case of private sales, there should be a clearly understood incentive to owners to sell to public institutions.

Arrangements for offering works of art to the Inland Revenue in lieu of tax, it adds, should be clearly laid down by a clause in the Finance Act.

Report welcomed: The report was described by Mr Hugh Leggat, secretary of Heritage in Danger, last night, as revolutionary and likely to lead to many millions of pounds of public expenditure savings if it was implemented (a Staff Reporter writes).

He said the report was a "complete reversal of Treasury thinking. If the Government accepted it, we should rapidly see an enormous improvement in this country in the shape of works of art remaining in houses and being looked after and cared for by private individuals."

Mr Dennis Farr, vice-president of the Museums Association, described the report as a "great advance."

## £50,000 aid to stage black show

By Richard Ford

A theatre company has been awarded £50,000 by the Manpower Services Commission to stage a musical about a reggae band.

Most of the young people taking part in the scheme under the Youth Opportunities Programme will be coloured teenagers from the St Paul's area of Bristol, where a riot took place last year. During the six-month project seven adults will supervise the youngsters, who will receive £23.50p a week.

The musical, called *Freedom City*, will tell the story of a reggae band, its members, homes, schools and colleges, and during its production it is hoped that the youngsters will learn not only about acting and dancing, but also skills in using sound equipment.

Rehearsals for the show, which tells the story of a reggae band, a Rastafarian, who falls in love with a gospel singer, begin on Monday in the Dockland Settlement premises.

## Doubt cast on value of jury-vetting

From Nicholas Timmins  
Guildford

Jury-vetting and the right of defence counsel to challenge jurors almost certainly makes no difference to the outcome of a trial, the Psychological Society was told yesterday.

Dr Philip Sealey, a lecturer in psychology at the London School of Economics, said that research involving 800 "jurors" who sat through complete tape recordings of trials showed that neither age, sex, class, personality differences nor educational attainment made any difference to the verdicts reached by the jury, either when told immediately after hearing the transcript or when their "verdicts" were formally reached after discussion.

The only slight tendency to bias was that older jurors over 60 tended to be more lenient. Dr Sealey told the society's annual conference at Guildford University that it had not been possible to include different racial groups in the study.

## Morris dancers' bells ring in first signs of spring

The outdoor folk dance seasons are about to begin. The first signs of spring bring out the morris dancers, with their flower-decked hats, white handkerchiefs, bells and herb-patterned staves, performing on village greens and at annual fetes throughout the country.

But folk dancing and its accompanying music is by no means a purely seasonal activity and in recent years has undergone a great revival.

Folk dancing is very much a participation pursuit, while the other part of the scene, folk song, is more of an entertainment. The dancing side of it has, for the initiated, its own terms like "den and drag" items: dances that are struts to a audience, which is then drawn in to participate.

Much of the interest is generated by the English Folk Dance and Song Society, which through its four regional offices has affiliated to it about 700 clubs and a membership of more than 10,500.

## Life and leisure Cyril Bainbridge

There are also about 150 school clubs, an important aspect of the society's work, backed by grants from local education authorities.

Most clubs meet fortnightly and the society, besides its own activities, provides callers and bands, often named ensembles like the Leather Fern Band or the Old Pull and Push Band, for outside organisations arranging barn dances and other folk activities.

The folk movement exists in many guises. The currently named Backs Britannia Cocker Dancers from Lancashire is a team of traditional professional male morris dancers that performs locally at Easter and at other times. The coconuts of the title are cotton bobbins.

## 'Spectator' to pay big libel damages to Irish author

By David Nicholson-Lord

The *Spectator* magazine yesterday apologised in the High Court in a libel action brought against it by Mr Constantine FitzGibbon, the Irish author and journalist, and agreed to pay a "substantial" sum in damages and costs.

The action arose over an article by Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft in the magazine in December, 1979, written in response to a portrait by Mr FitzGibbon of Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, which appeared in *The Times* the previous week.

Mr David Eady, for Mr FitzGibbon, said the *Spectator* article caused his client "great offence and embarrassment". It had suggested that Mr FitzGibbon's "treasonous" views of Mr Haughey were "unfounded" because the article alleged, a tax exemption scheme for

creative writers introduced by the Haughey Government had been suggested by Mr FitzGibbon.

Eady said the magazine accepted that Mr FitzGibbon had not proposed the scheme and did not benefit from it personally. In the light of the apology, Mr FitzGibbon regarded his reputation as vindicated.

Mr Richard Walker, for the *Spectator*, apologised for the "embarrassment and distress" caused by the article, but said it had not been intended to reflect on Mr FitzGibbon's objectivity or integrity.

Mr Walker said the defendant accepted that there was no question of Mr FitzGibbon's objectivity or integrity. Mr Haughey's leadership and policies by reason of any personal or financial considerations.

## Premier of Finland wins power struggle

From Olli Kivinen  
Helsinki, April 10

Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish Prime Minister, has emerged as the clear winner in an unusual power contest, in which he forced the hand of his own Social Democratic Party as well as other parties in his coalition Government.

Mr Koivisto also came up against Finland's patriarchal President Urho Kekkonen. This is the first time that a politician has increased his popularity by opposing President Kekkonen.

The President, who will be 81 in September, has been in office for 25 years and has been the undisputed leader of the country. He is known to deal swiftly and decisively against one opposing him and the Finns are now waiting to see how he will deal with Mr Koivisto.

Both Mr Koivisto's own Social Democratic Party's leadership and the non-socialist Centre Party wanted to replace him.

The nominal excuse was found in the social legislation needed to complete this year's general wages and prices agreement. The third coalition partner, the Communists, could not accept all of this legislation, and the Social Democrats and the Centre Party said there must be unanimity.

The crisis came to a head at the end of last week when Mr Aarne Saarinen, the Communist Party Chairman, reported talks with President Kekkonen that the President considered the Prime Minister should be replaced. Mr Saarinen added that relations between the President and the Prime Minister had become very bad.

After this it was generally expected that the Koivisto Government would be dismissed on Monday by saying that only Parliament could dismiss the Prime Minister. He added that the Communists could demonstrate their disagreement with some of the legislation without breaking up the coalition.

During this week the coalition parties found their hands forced by Mr Koivisto's determination and the quarrel was quietly patched up today.

Mr Saarinen said last night that he had not wanted to bring down Mr Koivisto or his coalition but that "certain circles" especially in the Centre Party, had convinced the President that the Prime Minister should be changed. It is generally believed that the "certain circles" are Mr Paavo Vayrynen, chairman of the Centre Party, and Mr Juhani Erttunen, head of the President's office.

Mr Koivisto has achieved widespread popularity, both among his own Social Democrats and in other parties. He is now the clear favourite to succeed President Kekkonen in 1984.

His popularity is based on his work as the Governor of the Bank of Finland and his personal, straightforward behaviour. His opponents say he is not a very effective leader, but this has not damaged him at all. On the contrary, his calm, calm leadership has won over most Finns.

## Control of anti-matter is achieved by scientists

Geneva, April 10.—European physicists reported today that they had collided anti-matter with normal matter for the first time. The European Centre for Nuclear Research, whose experimental site straddles the Swiss-French border near Geneva, said the achievement constituted "the opening of a new window" on the basic structure of the universe.

Experiments with anti-matter, mirror particles of normal matter, have been almost impossible until now because anti-matter tends to go out of existence as soon as it comes into contact with matter itself, the scientists announced.

The 12-nation research organisation recently developed a technique to obtain and store dense beams of anti-protons, the anti-particles of the proton, which is the nucleus of the hydrogen atom. On week-end the scientists accelerated anti-protons to collide with a proton beam in intersecting experimental tunnels known as storage rings.

The data gathered over several days by scientists monitoring the experiment was being analyzed.—Reuter.

Smallest particles: The simplest substances in the universe, anti-matter particles are the family of elementary particles (Pearce Wright, Science Editor writes). They are believed to be the ultimate fragments of matter, without any internal structure, and without any detectable shape or size.

It is the search for these fundamental building blocks from which all objects are made that is involved in this piece of research.

The smallest elementary particles known so far are divided into two classes; leptons, which include the electron; and the quarks, which are the constituents of the proton, the neutron and many related particles.

The only way of discovering things like quarks is to cause violent collisions between, say, an electron and proton, and the particles produced.

The clever trick reported by the Centre is that the anti-proton has actually been stored and then used in one of these experiments involving violent collision.

## Give priority to economy, Mr Brezhnev says

From Dasha Trevisan  
Prague, April 10

President Brezhnev urged the Soviet bloc countries to give priority to improving their economic performance before he left Prague today. He had been attending the Czechoslovak Communist Party congress which ended with the election of Dr Gustav Husak as party secretary.

Predictably, there were no changes at the top, with all 11 members of the old Presidium retaining their posts but as an additional member was elected. He is Mr Milos Jakes who will take overall charge of agriculture. Great importance is

attached to agriculture with a 10 per cent rise in output planned for the next five years. During the Polish turmoil Czechoslovakia has provided a topical analogy as well as being cited as an example of how the danger faced in 1968 was overcome, how the party's leading role was rescued and economic benefits were reaped from the close alliance with the Soviet Union.

In fact, the Soviet Union had poured money into the Czechoslovak economy since 1968, mainly through providing advantageous prices for energy and raw materials. The result is that Czechoslovakia is now

more closely integrated with the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovaks today enjoy the highest living standards in the Soviet bloc, but this situation is now ending and the prospects for the next five years are more worrying. Economic targets are more modest with the rise in industrial production planned at less than 4 per cent annually.

The emphasis of the new five-year plan is on quality rather than quantity, more cautious investment and increased reliance on local resources. This will be achieved through increased discipline in savings

and improvements rather than reform, which is a word that has been dropped from Czechoslovak political thinking.

Mr Brezhnev, who met the Czechoslovak Presidium members last night, underlined the need to improve economic efficiency and management. A new Soviet bloc economic summit is in the offing although this must wait until the Polish Government does something about its own economy.

The Polish crisis is already having an adverse effect on relations, especially on the neighbouring countries which have had to reduce imports from Poland because the Poles have

been unable to provide them with the same time they have been called upon to increase their exports to Poland.

At the close of the Czechoslovak party congress Dr Husak paid tribute to Mr Brezhnev whose presence, he said, had provided a great inspiration. He urged unity among the Socialist countries in which, he said, "lies our strength."

Poland's present situation obviously was discussed although not in public. It is not clear what the Poles next in other East European capitals there is growing apprehension over the situation.



Pointed statement: Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, telling journalists there is only time for one more question to Mr Alexander Haig, his American counterpart, at an impromptu press conference in London yesterday.

## Importance attached to diplomatic experience

## Mr Haig welcomes British role in Mid-East

By Louis Heren

It is understood that Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State who yesterday met the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, would prefer a larger British presence in the Middle East even if it meant that some British troops would have to be withdrawn from Western Europe.

No official confirmation was available, but apparently Mr Haig believes that the British experience in the Middle East is invaluable. He apparently attached as much if not more importance to British diplomacy as to a military commitment.

Mr Haig, who expressed himself well content with his conversations with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington, said that they had discussed his recent tour of the Middle East and Spain as well as the Prime Minister's coming visit to the Gulf states and the Afghan and Iranian crises. By all accounts, his hosts were also well pleased. Mr Haig may have been Supreme Allied

Commander, Europe, but yesterday he was more the diplomat than the soldier.

Reported allied differences, such as the separate American and European approaches to the Middle East, were brushed aside. The so-called European initiative was seen merely as a point of departure.

After Mr Haig's talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, and his earlier conversations with Dutch, French and West German ministers in Washington, the Americans and their European allies were seen to be mutually comfortable on this issue.

One explanation for this would appear to be the emerging pragmatic approach of President Reagan and Mr Haig. As a consequence, the early misunderstandings were said to have been resolved.

Misunderstandings about the location of the Rapid Deployment Force, which a Washington source said was necessary if the Gulf states are to withstand the perceived Soviet threat, is said to

have been reduced as a result of Mr Haig's Middle East tour.

In this instance, Mr Haig's military experience was of some importance. The United States was apparently now talking the stocking of weapons, and not bases in the Middle East.

A larger naval presence was envisaged. The Rapid Deployment Force could well be based in the United States although past experience—and in this instance the 1958 Lebanese landings were mentioned—suggested that troops should have some knowledge of local conditions.

Reporters rebuffed: Mr Haig was unable to elaborate on a brief statement to journalists waiting outside the Foreign Office because Lord Carrington interrupted the proceedings.

From clarifying the American position regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization, (Michael Kalpe writes). Mr Haig had been asked

whether he would now want to involve the PLO. Before he could answer, Lord Carrington interjected: "Unless you (the journalists) let us get on, we shan't get the rest of the agenda through."

The brevity of the pavement press conference surprised the Americans present. Mr Haig's aides had said it would last between five and 10 minutes.

It was the second time in a week that a British minister has cut off an informal press conference in midstream to prevent a visiting American minister from publicly expressing his views.

On Monday Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, cut off a similar press conference when Mr Caspar Weinberger, his American counterpart, was about to answer a question.

Before Lord Carrington's interruption, Mr Haig described the London talks as thorough in the American style of the very unique relationship between Great Britain and the United States.

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## Tunisian leader ready to allow new parties

Tunis, April 10.—President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia today indicated readiness to accept a multi-party system after 25 years of one-party government.

Opening a special congress of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD), which he founded under French colonial rule, the President said he would not object if other political movements emerged beside the PSD.

They would have to prove they were representative; comply with the constitution; preserve the nation's gains; and reject fanaticism, violence and ideological or material dependence on foreign powers.

This was regarded as excluding Muslim fundamentalists who have been increasingly active in the last couple of years, and the Communist Party, which is banned.

He paid special tribute to Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister, for paving the way towards more democracy. Mr Mzali has followed a liberal line since he succeeded Mr Hedi Nouira in April last year.—Reuter.

## Astrology triumphs over seismology, Chinese claim

From Richard Hughes  
Hongkong, April 10

The earthquake that yesterday struck Haifeng county, about 30 miles north-east of Hongkong, was only minor and caused no damage or casualties, a Chinese local Communist Party spokesman said.

The first tremor at 9 am was between three and 10 seconds long and registered between 2.2 and 4.0 on the Richter scale of 10. Several hours later there were two minor tremors of 3.2 and 3.5. The first shock caused tremors in Hongkong.

"The situation is well under control and there have been no disturbances or looting," Hongkong authorities were told.

"All of the 5,000 boat people who fled to Hongkong in fear of the earthquake have now returned. Please assure the people of Hongkong that they will not be fleeing again."

People from the Guangdong region of China fled to Hongkong recently after it was rumoured that an earthquake would strike.

Despite the Chinese assurances, Hongkong security forces were on full alert last night.

A spokesman said refugees would be ordered to leave Hongkong waters or be repatriated. No boats have been sighted.

Chinese newspapers have pointed out that astrology was more accurate than seismology on this occasion. Local astrologers had predicted the week in which the earthquake would occur, while the Guangdong Seismological Bureau had denied there was any indication of a tremor, with the endorsement of the Royal Observatory in Hongkong.

Hongkong experts have proposed an earthquake research programme for the exchange of seismological information and staff with the Guangdong bureau.

They would be joint studies of magnitude and epicentre of recorded earthquakes in the past and of the possible spread of tremors to Hongkong.

Hongkong will also seek to establish connections with other centres which are extending similar earthquake research in vulnerable zones. Canada has already promised to supply information.

## General Prem fails to capitalize on failure of Thai coup

From David Watts  
Bangkok, April 10

General Prem Tinsulanonda came out of his first post-coup Cabinet meeting early this week and advised Thai to forget about the army uprising that came close to destroying the Government.

But even in coup-prone Thailand last week's events were quiet. If Thai were to say anything for anything from their Prime Minister, they were not expecting comfortable words but decisive action to meet some of the complaints which prompted the uprising by the "Young Turks".

There is little indication of this either in the form of restructuring the Cabinet or on the economic front.

The introduction of unacceptable faces in the Cabinet, failure to meet economic problems, indecision and drift in the leadership were at the heart of the grievances felt by the young colonels who prompted the coup. Yet General Prem has failed so far to take advantage of the upsurge of good will that

greeted his skilled deflation of the crisis with one "No".

The coup has raised complex questions about the role and reliability of the Army, elements of which were apparently prepared to put their own interests before national security.

It has also cast doubt on General Prem's handling of the situation prior to the coup attempt: movement of troops from the Cambodian border towards Bangkok was not checked thoroughly, for proper authorization, and no attempt was made to have been made to detain Colonel Prachak Awanchit after he had proposed a coup to General Prem.

The role of the King was decisive in killing off the coup. General Prem admitted as much in an emotional speech to the Cabinet. The royal intervention was largely welcomed by elder statesmen, but it is doubtful if the King's role for royalty and the King's use of his political influence sparingly. "There is no magic

left in magic if it is used too often," said one Thai.

But should General Prem fail in the future he is now so closely tied to the palace that royalty might be involved inextricably in any future changes.

## News analysis

If future planners of coups are to draw any lessons from this experience, the first is that the Royal Family must be isolated quickly from the Prime Minister and the second is that the old adage "whoever holds Bangkok rules Thailand" is no longer true.

Speed of communication and transport has robbed the capital of its overriding position. Support from the countryside, where the majority of the population lives, is minimal to maintain power in Bangkok, not least because of food supplies. With dozens of civilian and military figures, some of them

former close aides of General Prem, held for questioning, Thailand is in an uncertain mood.

General Prem appears to have done nothing to tackle the problem of the presence in his Cabinet of an extreme right-wing General Sudsakorn Hasting.

General Prem has played a leading role in the bloody suppression of the 1976-77 student movement in Bangkok in 1976 and seems ready to be ruthless again.

The young colonels object to General Sudsakorn's inclusion in the Cabinet, which was due to political pressure.

General Sudsakorn seems to have taken an equivocal role during the coup. He made no statements backing the revolution, but he did not travel to Korea in the New Year, where General Prem had refuge with the King to endorse his Prime Minister's arrival coup last week. (Reuter reports from Bangkok.)

would be to prove that coups bring results at a time when Thailand is trying to rid itself of its chronic predilection for such changes. If General Sudsakorn, one of the main causes of the coup will remain.

Another dilemma faces General Prem in the Army. The colonels who staged the coup attempt were, ironically, former protégés of the Prime Minister. They had campaigned to get the army out of politics.

They had also been told to have to fit the crime, but the colonels are among the Army's ablest commanders and the military will all afford to do without them.

For Colonel Prachak, however, this will almost certainly be the end of the road.

Today ranging from reason to creating "unstable" and "disloyal" policemen, senior civil servants and dismissed military officers accused of taking part in the coup last week. (Reuter reports from Bangkok.)

## US accused of trying to sabotage Grenada aid

From Michael Hornsby  
Lombard, April 10

The United States was accused here today of trying to "sabotage" the fledgling economy of Grenada by urging the EEC to cut off aid to the island. The aid was helping to finance the building of an international airport on the tiny, poverty-stricken Caribbean island.

Mr Lyden Ramdhaney, the Grenada Deputy Finance Minister, told journalists he was "very disappointed" that five EEC countries had turned down invitations to attend a conference of potential aid donors in Brussels last night. He said the aid was not in doubt but that this was due to American diplomatic pressure.

With the unanimous backing of 60 other developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Grenada used the occasion of a summit meeting here of ACP and EEC ministers to circulate a resolution deploring American interference and calling for the Community's "dynamic involvement" in the island's development project.

The EEC stated invited to attend next week's meeting of aid donors—West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland—told Grenada their presence would not be "convenient" because it was not approved. Because of its known doubts about the airport project and its recent decision to end



Only barren argument may lie ahead

## Security conference adjourns in Madrid with no hope of accord

from Richard Wigg  
Madrid, April 10  
The European security review conference—the follow-up to the Helsinki Agreement—was adjourned today for a three-day Easter break with no sign of reaching an agreement even when it resumes.

With no end to the 35-nation conference remotely in sight after seven months of argument, the United States and the Soviet Union returned at today's adjournment to the barren verbal clashes which often characterized the pre-Christmas talks.

The United States insisted at the conference must put greater emphasis for human rights in its concluding document. After Mr Max Kampelmann, the American delegate, had detailed the continuing human rights of fighters in the Soviet

Union which has gone on throughout the conference here, Russia brought up alleged discriminatory treatment in the United States of minority groups.

Mr Leonid Ilyichov, the Soviet delegate, also protested today about what he labelled destructive remarks made earlier this week when the British delegate criticized Moscow's continuing abuse of human rights and its dilatory tactics over winding up the Madrid meeting.

The United States also rejected today a Soviet move evidently designed to permit any conference on disarmament and confidence-building measures, agreed by the present meeting in Madrid, to decide on an eventual second stage for itself. According to the Soviet plan, it would have powers to do this without first submitting

the results of its first stage for review by the follow-up conference which will succeed the Madrid meeting.

Not only the United States but also Western and neutral countries at the Madrid meeting have indicated firm opposition to this attempt to separate the two main elements of the so-called Helsinki process—security and human rights.

What preoccupies many Western delegates as they prepare to go home to their capitals, is whether the attempt to return to the same futile debates on May 5. Many of these diplomats are now, privately, utterly sceptical of any worthwhile results emerging in Madrid. But they realize that their governments are not prepared to incur responsibility for walking out on the Helsinki process.

Mr Jerry Verner, the United States spokesman, put this feeling on the record, admitting to reporters today: "We are in a sense prisoners of our own process."

As a time-consuming press conference Mr Ilyichov made it clear that the Soviet Union is determined to hang on after the Easter break for its so-called "positive results" just as much as the West.

These results, he insisted, must include an "appropriate" reply by the West to President Brezhnev's proposal to extend the area of confidence-building measures to include all Soviet territory in Europe. Everyone at the conference knows there has been no movement on this point by either side for the past month.

## Russia seeks military talks

Vienna, April 10.—Mr Nikolai Gerasimov, the Soviet Prime Minister, today called on the joint security conference to initiate a new conference on a military aspects of détente.

Ending his first official visit to the West, he agreed in a statement with Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, that progress in the dead-end Vienna East-West troop reduction talks was "urgently necessary".

Mr Gerasimov later left by air for Moscow.

The joint statement did not mention a Kremlin call for a moratorium on medium-range missiles in Europe which the Prime Minister repeated in his talks here this week.

Nor did it bring up possible Soviet participation in a North-South conference in October of leaders from industrialized and developing countries, of which Dr Kreisky is co-sponsor with President José Lopez Portillo, of Mexico.

The Chancellor said on Wednesday that he had mentioned the conference to Mr Gerasimov, who was not totally negative about it, but that an answer from Moscow might still take some time.—Reuter.

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## Opinion poll war over Giscard chances

from Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 10  
A war of opinion polls has broken out between Giscard and Gaullists over the two latest polls—in Paris-Match, and the weekly VSD—which have produced quite contradictory results.

These polls have started off a wider controversy about whether such public opinion soundings are doctored to suit the one or the other candidate. And this controversy is linked with complaints against the managers of television and radio programmes, who for some time have been accused by the Gaullists, the Left and the minor presidential candidates of partiality in favour of M Giscard d'Estaing.

Le Figaro today gives the controversy about the polls as a reason for not publishing its usual weekly Sofres poll in its magazine tomorrow. But another reason appears to be that this latest poll shows M Giscard d'Estaing slipping two points in the past week to a forecast score of 25 per cent in the first ballot. M Mitterrand holds his ground with 24 per cent; and both M Marchais and M Chirac gain one point each, scoring 17.5 and 17 per cent respectively. The latest unpublished poll does not give estimates for the second ballot.

The Paris-Match poll shows M Giscard d'Estaing winning by 48 per cent in the second ballot, while the VSD poll has M Mitterrand winning by 52.5 per cent against 47.5 to M Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Michel Pinton, the general delegate of the Giscardian UDF, has called on the official commission on polls to check the validity of the VSD poll, on the ground that it is the first to give such a score to the Socialist candidate. But his move has drawn an ironical remark from M Jacques Toubon, the secretary-general of the support committee for M Chirac: "For M Pinton, the good polls are those favourable to M Giscard d'Estaing. The bad ones are those which favour his opponents."

The Socialists have decided to file an action with the Constitutional Council against the "abuse of power by the radio and television in the service of the President-candidate."

During his tour, Mr Crocker will sound out black African states on American ideas for resuming settlement negotiations over South African-administered Namibia.

The Youth League statement said that Mr Crocker's trip came at a time when the Reagan Administration was making "tireless efforts to repeal the Bill forbidding American support to counter-revolutionary movements" in Angola.

Mr Crocker, the secretary-general of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party, condemned the Reagan Administration's Africa policy and said Mr Crocker could not be regarded as a friend of the continent.

However, Ujamaa, the party newspaper, published a leading article welcoming the visit and expressing hopes that it will help adjust the Washington stand on African issues.

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Israeli troops leaving their helicopter after the Lebanon raid.

## Israel hits Lebanon on three fronts

From Tawfik Mishlawi  
Beirut, April 10  
As a fragile ceasefire between Syrian peacekeeping troops and Lebanese right-wing Christians held for the second straight day despite minor violations, Israeli warplanes today strafed Palestinian guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon, killing at least four people and wounding 15 others.

An overnight Israeli attack on Palestinian and Lebanese leftist positions was reported to have left between 10 and 15 Palestinian guerrillas dead. A Palestinian spokesman said the attackers clashed with the combined forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its Lebanese leftist militia

allies in the region of Nabatiya, the main guerrilla stronghold in southern Lebanon, claimed responsibility for the operation.

An Israeli military spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were wounded, one of whom died hours later. The spokesman said that between 10 and 15 Palestinians were killed in the operation, which was backed by a barrage of fire from Israeli gunboats off the Lebanese coast.

A PLO spokesman in Beirut said the Israeli "airborne" attack confirmed Palestinian information that the Israelis, in collaboration with the Lebanese right-wing Christians in the north were planning a "pincer movement" to liquidate the Palestinian guerrilla movement.

The raids last night and today came after a bomb attack earlier this week against an Israeli restaurant in Jerusalem in which an Arab waiter was killed and two Israelis were

wounded. The Palestinian guerrillas, in a communiqué in Damascus, claimed responsibility for the operation.

Israeli Phantom fighter aircraft today raided Palestinian bases in Damour and Dalhamia, about 10 miles south of Beirut. Lebanese police sources said at least four people were killed and about 15 others wounded.

At around midday, there was another air raid on the village of Saadiyat on the main Beirut Sidon highway. The number of casualties in this raid was not known.

Tanks blown up: Paratroops made one of Israel's deepest raids inside Lebanon last night and reported that they destroyed a Palestinian guerrilla base only three miles from an area occupied by a Syrian peacekeeping force.

The Israelis said they inflicted casualties, blew up tanks and ammunition dumps and flew home by helicopter without encountering the Syrians.

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## Countdown that led to mission

From Michael Leapman  
Cape Canaveral, April 10  
Here is the countdown to today's delay in the launching of the Columbia space shuttle: 2.30. Commander Young and Captain Crippen get up at the appointed hour and dress in blue jumpsuits.

2.30. The astronauts breakfast is televised to the waiting reporters.

3.30. The astronauts are televised as they walk to have their space suits put on. Everything is moving towards a 6.50 am launch.

3.55. The astronauts are taken in a van to the launching pad. 4.20. They crawl through a port-hole into the shuttle cabin. 5.05. The hatch is closed.

5.35. The astronauts' pulses are 75 a minute. "They are calm," says a doctor.

5.50. Dawn breaks. Viewing sites at Space Centre fill with people.

6.00. Start of a scheduled 20-minute hold period.

6.20. Count resumes on schedule.

6.25. Astronauts report a problem with their back-up computer, described as "the first major problem of the countdown".

6.31. Scheduled nine-minute hold begins. Computer problem appears to have been solved, says spokesman.

6.37. One of the four fuel cells in the shuttle seems to be producing excess water. Hold extended. If problem cannot be solved in 50 minutes technicians will have to go back and repeat preparatory work.

6.50. Scheduled launch time. Still holding.

6.56. Problem with fuel cells solved, but back-up computer program giving trouble again.

7.02. Spokesman gives first indication that launch may not take place today.

7.30. Countdown goes back to lift-off minus 20 minutes.

8.35. New launching time is set at 10.20 if a computer problem is solved. Countdown goes back to lift-off minus one hour, to allow for hold periods.

9.30. Countdown held at 20 minutes. Computer experts have checked the programme in the back-up computer and found it correct. It remains to try to get it in communication with the other four computers on the shuttle.

## Church talks hindered by passport

from Ray Kennedy  
Johannesburg, April 10  
The prospects of a further Cabinet delegation and high-level talks between a South African and a South African church leader have been hindered by a passport problem.

Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, is expected to visit the South African Council of Churches (SACC) which will definitely withdraw.

The SACC represents most of the country's churches apart from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Church which has only a small status.

Last year a Cabinet delegation headed by Mr Botha held talks with the SACC on ways to improve relations between the two. The meeting was inconclusive. The SACC, representing the mass of black, underprivileged people in the church, called for the total repeal of the pass laws and government's programme of removals of blacks from areas to the Bantustans.

Mr Botha replied by inviting church leaders to visit the heretofore area of South Africa, where the South African troops are fighting guerrillas.

Church leaders saw this as a play to involve them in the South African action but they consider to be an act of liberation war and resistance. None the less, the fact there had been a meeting was viewed as a start to meaningful negotiations.

## One word transforms Botha election rally

From Our Correspondent  
Cape Town, April 10  
A four-letter word shouted from the back of the hall transformed a rather dull election meeting, addressed by Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, into a rumbustious affair during which the Prime Minister was heckled by both rightists and left-wingers.

Mr Botha came to Cape Town last night to make his main public address of the election campaign in the Cape Province. The venue was the Good Hope Centre, a huge modern auditorium which is normally used for boxing tournaments and indoor tennis matches.

The hall can hold a capacity crowd of 8,000. Mr Botha drew only about 2,000, which most observers felt was a good turnout (certainly far better than any other party leader could achieve) although if it had been his predecessor, Mr John Vorster or the late Dr Hendrik Verwoerd there would not have been an empty seat in the place.

Initially the audience was attentive but showed little sign of enthusiasm either for the Prime Minister or what he had to say. They clapped politely when he arrived and again when he departed, but when he was presented with carnations by a group of pretty girls wearing National Party sashes.

Then came the interjection. Mr Botha was just saying that his Government was determined to protect minority rights when a man at the back yelled "crap". This is not the sort of language that South

African Prime Ministers are accustomed to at election meetings and Mr Botha, appearing somewhat taken aback, said: "I beg your pardon." The word was repeated, this time even louder.

Although the interjection brought blushes to the cheeks of some of the white present, it certainly set the meeting alight. Mr Botha was transformed from a rather pedestrian speaker into a fiery orator, and the party faithful responded with cheers and laughter.

The Prime Minister was frequently applauded when he said South Africa was one of the best countries in the Western world to live in, that inflation was a problem of prosperity, that the Government would not allow its internal policy to be dictated from outside.

He also said South Africa had more freedom of religion and speech, and a more independent judiciary than many Western countries.

Some of the most enthusiastic applause was produced by Mr Botha's reference to South Africa's security legislation. It was no more severe, he maintained, than legislation in Northern Ireland, Holland or Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act.

"We don't have security measures for decent-minded, reasonable people," he declared, wagging his finger menacingly at the audience, "but for underdogs of our sublimity!" he added to thunderous applause: "We want to stamp out radicalism, communism and subversion."

There has nevertheless been an important drain of skills since independence. Although Zimbabwe is more fortunate than many other African countries in the number of skilled blacks in employment, there are not nearly enough of them to meet the needs of an expanding economy.

A third constraint is transport. There is a severe shortage of lorries because during the past few years almost all the vehicles either built in Zimbabwe or imported were for use in the war. The railways are already running at maximum capacity yet are unable to handle a quarter of the traffic which is on offer.

There are also fiscal reasons why some of the gilt may be coming off the gingerbread. The money supply has increased by about 40 per cent and this has given the inflation rate, which has traditionally remained in single figures, a hefty push upwards.

The current account balance of payments, which showed a healthy surplus last year, has now moved sharply into deficit and is likely to remain there as the level of imports continues to outstrip exports.

But perhaps the most disturbing factor is the continuing large budgetary deficit. In the last budget the deficit was estimated at around £360m, which was equivalent to about one-third of budgetary expenditure, about the same as the previous two or three years.

However, the Government's plans to increase spending on health and social services, plus the continuing high level of defence expend-

iture seem certain to increase this deficit.

Despite these problems, however, the country's development seems considerably brighter than in many other African countries or in the recession-hit West.

The agricultural sector is undergoing an unprecedented boom led by a doubling of the country's maize output. The manufacturing sector will remain buoyant and there should be some improvement in the value of mineral production.

According to the White Paper Growth with Equity the total investment envisaged during the period of the three-year transition to independence plan 1981/82-1983/84 is estimated at £2,600m, of which half will come from the private sector.

The plan, which emphasises the need to replace "imperialist exploitation" with the establishment of a "socialist, egalitarian and democratic society", places stress on rural development, greater equality in income and wealth distribution and greater participation in the economy by Zimbabwean nationals.

According to Mr Brian Gubb, president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe, businessmen have been unsettled by the socialist rhetoric used in the White Paper. "The White Paper sent a shiver through the private sector," he said.

However, he conceded that the interpretation of the document during discussions with Government officials was "more reassuring".

The new development plan is not due to be published until the middle of the year. Before then the Riddell Commission will be bringing out its recommendations on minimum wages and prices. Between them these two documents should indicate just how socialist Zimbabwe is going to be.

## Inflation may take some gilt off the gingerbread in Zimbabwe

disturbing factors behind the economic boom

lights which blaze throughout the night in Salisbury's industrial zone bear testimony to the economic boom Zimbabwe has enjoyed since the country became independent.

A year ago most Zimbabwean factories were working at below capacity and most were closed each night. They are working round the clock in an attempt to keep pace with demand.

Using the first year of independence Zimbabwe's economy has, in the words of Edward Cross, a prominent economist and head of the country's Marketing Board, "taken off like a rocket".

Domestic growth last year was estimated at 8 per cent, but Mr Cross reckons it to be as high as 10 per cent.

Ending of the guerrilla war and the lifting of sanctions were two important contributory factors to this boom. Even more important has been the massive increase in tourism resulting from the introduction of a minimum wage, the reduction of prices of some basic commodities, the action in sales tax and the production of tens of thousands of people (such as the guerrillas) in the economy. Domestic consumption last year grew by over 40 per cent.

Over the past few years, however, businessmen and bankers are more sceptical about the country's growth prospects. A recent Standard Bank report commented: "The build-up of pressures on dwindling resources, in conditions of an unprecedented increase in money supply, slackening financial control, is likely to result in very high inflation (probably over 20 per cent) and balance of payments difficulties. These circumstances could lead to some 4 per cent real growth of the maximum attainable given continued internal stability".

There are a number of important constraints on growth in the country. One is that many industries are already running at maximum capacity and are unable, largely due to foreign exchange shortages, to expand. Soaring consumption has already produced shortages in a number of sectors.

Nicholas Ashford, The Times Southern Africa correspondent, looks at Zimbabwe's booming economy in his sixth and concluding article about the country a year after independence.

that the country's big increase in industrial output, rises in industrial production and a more buoyant mining sector should ensure that this growth rate is achieved.

The £637m in foreign aid which was pledged during last month's aid donors conference will, they say, not only help to ease Zimbabwe's chronic foreign exchange problem but will also encourage foreign private investment which until now have been reluctant to move into Zimbabwe.

However, some businessmen and bankers are more sceptical about the country's growth prospects. A recent Standard Bank report commented: "The build-up of pressures on dwindling resources, in conditions of an unprecedented increase in money supply, slackening financial control, is likely to result in very high inflation (probably over 20 per cent) and balance of payments difficulties. These circumstances could lead to some 4 per cent real growth of the maximum attainable given continued internal stability".

There are a number of important constraints on growth in the country. One is that many industries are already running at maximum capacity and are unable, largely due to foreign exchange shortages, to expand. Soaring consumption has already produced shortages in a number of sectors.

Another constraint is the shortage of skilled manpower. Although whites are not leaving the country in any large numbers as had been feared,

there has nevertheless been an important drain of skills since independence. Although Zimbabwe is more fortunate than many other African countries in the number of skilled blacks in employment, there are not nearly enough of them to meet the needs of an expanding economy.

A third constraint is transport. There is a severe shortage of lorries because during the past few years almost all the vehicles either built in Zimbabwe or imported were for use in the war. The railways are already running at maximum capacity yet are unable to handle a quarter of the traffic which is on offer.

There are also fiscal reasons why some of the gilt may be coming off the gingerbread. The money supply has increased by about 40 per cent and this has given the inflation rate, which has traditionally remained in single figures, a hefty push upwards.

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However, the Government's plans to increase spending on health and social services, plus the continuing high level of defence expend-

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# Saturday Review

In August, 1979, J. G. Farrell was drowned off the coast

of Cork. He left behind him an unfinished novel, *The Hill Station*, and a travel diary

which he kept during a visit to India in 1971.

John Spurling recalls the man and, below, J. G. Farrell visits the banks of the River Ganges

## Jim Farrell

a memoir by

John Spurling

I first met Jim Farrell in the winter of 1962-63 when he and I were both new to London and both living in garrets. At least mine was a genuine garret, at the top of a Baywater tenement in what was then called Rachenland, but Jim's was a conservatory in Notting Hill Gate. He always called it a greenhouse and it reappeared as such in his third novel, *A Girl in the Head*, some years later. By the time that was published we were both somewhat more pleasantly situated, facing each other across a communal garden on Notting Hill.

Jim, by now writing *Troubles*, whose setting is a vast decaying hotel in Ireland, had a room with a cracked window in a seedy hotel run by an Irishman. After the modest success of

*Troubles* — it won the Faber Memorial Prize and was praised by several critics, notably Elizabeth Bowen — he moved to a small flat between Harrods and the V & A. I still saw a good deal of him, but only by appointment, as it were, mainly for supper at his flat or mine, instead of casually.

The friend through whom I met Jim had been his contemporary at Brasenose College, Oxford, where they were both rugby players. It was there, in his first year as an undergraduate, that, immediately after a game of rugby, Jim was suddenly taken ill with polio and removed to an iron lung.

The myth grew up, partly provoked by Jim himself, that he had entered the lung as a stalwart "hearty" and emerged as a white-haired, emaciated novelist. It was not quite so. He had been, certainly, a fine games player at Rossall, but the master responsible for the school magazine recalled that Jim could have filled it all by himself, "but we had to let the others have a look in".

G. M. Arthurson, who taught French at Rossall, remembers Jim as a boy who got on with everybody but was always slightly apart, not one of a pack. The extraordinary head of white hair, set off by black eyebrows, was naturally the first thing anyone noticed, but it took me some time to observe, by the way he put on his overcoat, that the polio had left any other traces.

Indeed when I first read his second novel, *The Long*, published in 1965, a partly farcical version of his own experiences in hospital, I assumed that the account of the central character's dismal physical condition was as heightened as the rest.

Some years later when he talked about what had happened to him, I realized that it wasn't. The way *The Long* transformed basic reality into comic fantasy was to become the essence, the Farrellian trademark, of all his later work.

Jim visited India (where his parents lived for some years before he was born) at the beginning of 1971, soon after the publication of *Troubles*. He was already getting to work on his next novel, whose basic reality was to be the Siege of Lucknow. Its working title was *Difficulties*, an ironic indication that even in those early stages he saw the book as linked to *Troubles*, not in any obvious sequential way, since none of the characters overlap and the Siege of Lucknow happened 63 years before the events of *Troubles*, but as a further exploration of the nature and behaviour of the British colonial middle classes when caught with their backs to the wall.

Jim took various introductions to India, including one from me to my great-uncle. My great-uncle had retired from the Indian Civil Service just before independence and settled since his whole adult life had been spent in India, on a farm near Dehra Dun, where, as Jim noted

in his *Indian Diary*, he led a fairly feudal life, returning to England at roughly two-year intervals to see his friends and relations, and to buy a new hat or a pair of shoes. But by 1971 he had grown too old to travel any further than Mussorie, the nearest hill station.

Jim and my uncle warmed to each other, as I had been sure they would, after some initial shyness over lunch, and both wrote me letters to say so. Jim's account being rather fuller and more dramatic.

... there's a lot going on. Your uncle told me there was a deadly feud between his manservant and the cook, the former having fertilised the latter's elder daughter with twins... a plume of smoke rising from the riverbank was the pyre of his driver's wife who had committed suicide the night before by setting fire to herself after a row with her husband. He took me down to show me the farm... and on the way we passed his primary school, a score of children in a glade with blackboard and teacher.

Many of the most striking passages in Jim's *Indian Diary* are concerned with funerals. They are written with apparently scrupulous detachment but their force comes from one's constant awareness of the observer and the fact that for all his efforts he is not detached but uneasily poised between laughter and horror. This was how his imagination always worked: if you could break the

mould of habit and look at reality with a fresh eye, it would soon start to grow fantastic.

In all three of his completed historical novels the walled-off complacency of the characters is destroyed by their disastrous circumstances, the underlying reality breaks in and their lives become a surreal nightmare which, in Myles na Gopaleen's phrase, would be tragic were it not so humorous.

Jim returned from India more horrified than amused. To note the contrast between the degrading poverty of the many and the affluence of the few — Jim's introductions had admitted him to one or two rich Indian homes — is a common place for visitors to India, but in his case the visit coincided with and served to hasten a change in his own attitude to the world.

His three early novels, all with contemporary settings, are apolitical. True, the earliest, which was published soon after I met him and which had a French setting — Jim had lived in France between leaving Oxford and settling in London — was a recognisably Cold War novel, turning on the rivalry between a communist newspaper editor and an anti-communist novelist, but its message was essentially "a plague on both your houses" and the politics were more a matter of plot than personal interest.

The plot of *Troubles*, also turns on politics, but the central figure, the Major — shell-shocked in the First World

War, irresistibly sympathetic and self-deprecating in the manner of his author — ends as a victim of the Sinn Féiners only because he is an Englishman and without at any point becoming involved in the political issues. The novel that eventually emerged from the Indian visit — *The Siege of Krishnapur* — was still overtly apolitical, although its grim situation was caused by the Indian Mutiny, there was no attempt to express its causes or to present the besieging sepoys as anything beyond the instruments of fate.

It was as if the fuse lit by the Indian visit took longer to reach its powder keg than the book took to write. *Krishnapur* was published in 1973 and it was only later that year that the explosion happened — still a rather muffled one — in Jim's acceptance speech at the Booker Prize dinner when to everyone's astonishment this modest and humorous man suddenly accused the donors of the prize of exploiting their workers in the West Indies. It was hardly a well chosen moment: after all he still took the prize and spent a large part of it on cases of wine which almost completely filled the bathroom of his tiny flat, and it demonstrated — how little thought-out, how confused and instinctive was the change in his outlook.

He came to terms with it more deliberately in the last and most powerful of his historical trilogy, *The Singapore Grip*, devoting much of the book's

long build-up to a detailed expose of the way British businessmen exploited their Malay and Chinese labourers on the rubber estates with no thought for their own profit.

In the three years while he was writing *The Singapore Grip* Jim became uncharacteristically argumentative and assertive on socio-political topics, but once the book was done he seemed to revert more or less to his old charming, ironical, detached self.

I think it was not that the change had been superficial but rather that he had last assimilated it, adding in the process another layer to his understanding of those people he always wrote about his own people, the blinkered, obstinate, greedy, sometimes well-meaning, sometimes heroic, but always comical British middle classes.

Perhaps in the strength of that new understanding, perhaps to escape from only ever seeing his friends at supper

J. G. Farrell: a new understanding

parties, Jim returned to Ireland. He had not been there, but his family was Irish and he had spent his childhood there. At 16 he bought a farm on Cork, close to the set about renovating it for his visits from his parents. He embarked on his next novel, *The Hill Station*, in the months later, while from a rock, his latest he somehow fell or was away and more crippled polio than he ever anybody to know, was as save himself in a heavy sea. He was 44, the first of his second novel about (which he had meant to again that autumn) was the first to see the light. He was still in the making. He was one of the two or three best English novelists of his generation; I know that him was one of the worst that ever happened to me. © 1981 by John Spurling

## Death's rolling stream

by J. G. Farrell

1 March  
After a night spent fighting off mosquitoes during which I failed to sleep a wink, I was out of bed at six to join the boatload of tourists on the Ganges. The sun was just rising as we went down to the water. Many Hindus splashing away, rubbing themselves with mustard oil to keep out the cold: women, mainly old, bathing in a separate enclosure, equally visible from the water however. They don't seem to mind tourists peering at them. A lot of them are no doubt tourists, or at least visitors, themselves.

The guide tells us that Benares people prefer to go across to the outer bank for privacy. The worshippers cup water in their hands to the rising sun, facing it. The river is completely built up on the west side because the worshippers face east. All the time resonant chanting... of the name of God... echoes over the water and the ghats and there is a ringing of bells.

We pass the house of the superintendent of the burning ghat looming over the water: on the cornice are two brightly painted tigers about to pounce, signifying the constant imminence of death. A fire has just been lit on the burning ghat: a woman shrouded in white... this means, I think, that she is unmarried or a widow... a woman whose husband is still living wears red. The feet rather gruesomely stick out of the pyre about halfway up. The chief mourner has his head shaved and is stripped to the waist, bustling around with a few others. There are great piles of wood waiting for corpses. Later from the bus I saw a couple of peasants carrying what looked like a body into town, on a mattress on their heads.

After the trip on the river (during which a hippy on a houseboat was pointed out to us by the guide and we all stared dutifully at this bizarre creature, who was merely an ordinary-looking girl hanging up some clothes) we walked up through some incredibly narrow streets, past the golden temple and various other temples, to a crowded courtyard of a commercial frame of a house, where a man in a turban and a woman in a sari were waiting. The man was a priest, the woman a widow. They were waiting for a corpse to be brought in. The priest was a very impressive person: spoke very well about Hinduism when we later visited the Shiva temple at the Hindu University. Going in, the worshippers reached up and rang a bell. Beside a palfrey black stone set in oval tapering white marble sat a priest. The stone was decked in flowers and water continually dripped on to a brass receptacle to symbolize I'm not sure what — the passing life, the fact that a Hindu's life should be devoted



to God moment by moment?

Three musicians sat and played drums and sang with ecstatic enthusiasm and good cheer smiling at people going by: they sat on the floor, all of marble, very little decoration but shrouded also to Kali, all black as her name indicates, and another couple, I forget who. Worshippers come up, close their eyes and murmur a prayer and making some sort of devotional sign and an offering to the priest I believe. Great wax heaves had been built on the spire of the temple, shaped like baskets.

In the afternoon we visited the Buddhist temple at Sarnath on the site of the Buddha's first sermon. A great golden Buddha, beside it a little old priest with spectacles sat cross-legged talking in a devotee. Thence to the palace of the Maharajah of Benares: a peeling collection of buildings with some magnificent rooms over the Ganges. Like the Maharajah of Jaipur he has an armoury with a collection of exotic weapons — spear pistols that discharge a shot at the same time as stabbing you. Great knives that by working a blade, open out into four blades. Plus the usual caparisons for elephants, howdahs of various descriptions, a plain one for hunting, elaborate ones for other occasions... together with all the attendant elephant gear — triangular caps to go over the elephant's head, richly embroidered rugs, harnesses and parasols.

There were also torches: a long silver pole with a cup on the end for oil-soaked cotton or a pole with a five-spiked silver disc on the end. Blazing rags were stuck on the spikes. The Maharajah also had lights for different moods: a blue-glassed lamp for sleeping, a green one for waking, etc., and a whole variety of velvet cushions, one to go under each joint, ankle, knee etc. While he slept the

servant stood by to slip cushions under joints if he moved. Also an astrological clock. A great deal of time was spent with apertures for moving bands, giving solar time, conjunctions of the planets and so forth, numbers in Hindi.

Above the Maharajah's bed a great embroidered punkah with gold tassels and a cuir rope, I think it measured about eight feet by two. In the armoury there were also immensely long flintlock rifles, pistols with several barrels and a dagger attached to the hilt, a marble fireplace inlaid with flowers, cut silk vestments and gilded embroidered caps with feathers, rich carpets, an iron ring with minor spikes, hinged, with a chair attached for burning, a number of pieces of carved ivory, flowers, trees and so forth. (My rajah might be sitting in the middle of all this gloomily eating a boiled egg and reading *Blackwood's Magazine*.) Four nailed spikes for throwing on the ground in front of the enemy also. Not to forget chairs made of antlers, tables of rhinoceros feet and something or other made of bear tusks.

Afternoon spent at the burning ghat, after a heavier lunch than I had intended of chicken masala, 'pease' pulao (for some reason they always add an 'e') and 'raita' and nam. I was walking bloatedly back to the hotel when I was hailed by one of a million rickshaw drivers who said he had taken me to the Kwatly the day before. This decided me to get into his vehicle and head off towards the river. We had a puncture on the way and he transferred me to a colleague's vehicle. My doubts as to how to proceed on some kind of a narrow little alley behind the burning ghat were settled by a young sensitive student. We wound through the usual maze of narrow streets, squeezing past

cows and an occasional water-buffalo (this morning I saw two with their heads locked together — two men had to unjam them) not to mention the usual crowds of people.

The scene at the ghat was a pretty casual one. I sat down on some steps for about an hour watching... there were about half a dozen pyres going... mostly in an advanced stage... while I was there a couple of women's corpses in coloured shrouds were brought down on green bamboo stretchers, dunked in the river and parked to wait their turn. There was no wailing or any signs of distress... a few peasants also sitting on the steps... I suppose I was ten yards away from the nearest fire... some of the corpses burning were of paupers and were being burned by men who worked there, who poked away at the fires with bamboo staves, constantly stirring them up and trying to get the unconsumed parts to burn. The outside bits tended to burn least quickly, the feet and the head: a couple of feet stuck out for some time, toes rather played, nails paler than the dark skin (the feet of a not young man I should say) while the middle portion of the body burned, the skin-bones showed very white, the skin having burned off quickly and there being little flesh to carbonize: presently the attendant turned one of the legs over — it was when it went right over against the natural articulation of the joint that the body really stopped being a person for me and became an object.

Soon after the pyre had been lit the chief mourner, dressed in a white dhoti, head shaved, threw sandalwood powder on to the corpse and something else, perhaps some thick paste of some kind. In a narrow little alley behind the burning ghat I saw them later. While I was watching the fires one of the

holy men came down to collect embers from some of the more thoroughly reduced fires in a shallow pan: this was to do their cooking on. One of them was heating up a thick round bread of some kind. They picked the pan up with a stick. From time to time (twice anyway) I heard a dull report from one of the half-consumed bodies. Also the white ribs showed plainly for a moment, as the cloth and skin burnt away.

When the bodies were consumed down to small pieces the attendant picked the charred lump, unrecognisable as any particular organ, up with two sticks and manoeuvred it into the river: it went in with a hiss of steam. One of the bodies was consumed down to a couple of pieces the size of (I'm trying to think of a non-edible object) apples, sausages, etc. (some indicate) of Coca Cola bottles and threw them in: they appeared to sink.

One of the more solid hulks oozed a lot of liquid as it was turned over and the old man tending it bled, having great trouble getting it turned. I left before he had got it finished. When the remnant had been thrown into the river, the mourner got a round jar (earthenware) of water from the river and threw it over the fire, repeating it until it was doused, and then, with it full, throwing it over his shoulder on to the fire, where it smashed rather dramatically.

The chap with me told me that corpses came from all over the country, usually by car (rich people) so in the afternoon there would be many fires. I saw a chap later with one on a stretcher (they're tied on and look very insubstantial) on the back of a cycle rickshaw. He also said they came by water, though none did while I was there. He said that that corpses of babies, holy men, people who died of snake bite or

smallpox are not burned but are taken out, tied to a stone and sunk in the river. There wasn't the slightest trace of ceremony about the scene (apart from the various rituals that were followed): three or four wretched crippled dogs lay about basking in the sun, peasants sat around hugging their knees: cows wandered up and down the steps browsing on odds and ends of vegetable matter that they found — paper, cardboard — and one of them even inspected one of the waiting corpses (but found nothing to eat) on which sparrows played too. One man with his son seemed a bit uncertain how to go about it and someone standing by shouted instructions — it was all very natural and matter-of-fact.

Nobody paid any attention to me, fortunately. Boats sailed by, including a vociferous wedding-party in a large boat being propelled by a number of oars sprouting from odd parts — for a while this overloaded vessel was going round in a circle on its own axis while music played merrily. Smoke sometimes blew in our eyes and for a while it was quite warm, particularly as the steps against which I was sitting were in the sun. There were no women present.

Some of the larger pieces of body must drift around just beside the bank as not much effort was made to bury them far in: there were several boats moored in the way as well. All this, which sounded distinctly gruesome to me yesterday when someone described it to me, now doesn't seem at all so I think this is because a dead body being burned is so completely an object; which is consumed so quickly (they say three to four hours but I guess any recognisable quality, very quickly) that one sees people, bodies and so on in a completely different light. It all

seems extremely natural in some odd way. Glipped in the streets of Benares, a pavement dentist with an array of pliers and pinners spread out on a dirty cloth in front of him, and three or four 'plates' with a tooth or two stuck in them: he seemed to be busy taking an impression of a patient's mouth. Also glimpsed a cage full of forty or fifty shivering little birds: an old man having his back rubbed with a rubber-ended stick: a very fat man doing exercises on the steps of the main bathing ghat standing with one arm and then the other against a concrete pillar: a party of nuns with a woman's body on a bamboo stretcher on their shoulders, jogging through the narrow streets, broad red marks on their foreheads, chanting words to the effect that 'Rama is true'... they turned a corner in front of me and vanished towards the burning ghat.

I was escorted around by a highly strung young man wearing a lavender silk shirt who independently picked up the Australian I've been talking to. Robert Metherall, he is called, both, individually, into a silk factory... neither of us succumbed to the temptation of buying anything, however.

Benares is a pleasant town but the streets here seem to be more crowded than any I've seen anywhere. Met and talked to a young English hippy who hangs around the Tourist Bungalow but sleeps at the station. He says he has no money but it doesn't worry him, he eats better now than he did before, people giving him food. 'Nod', he calls himself. A mild, blond youth with glasses, not unintelligent. We talked a bit about Hinduism and Ramakrishna. He wants to join an ashram but was turned down in Pondicherry. His attitude to devotion seemed a bit muddled

Bodies for burning by the water: what had sounded so gruesome when described to me now seemed natural

to me but he seemed to genuine desire for enlightenment. He had rid the Ganges in what frequent dips. He off-punting mannerism (ing 'yeah' in the mid sentences.

Coming out of the st. was idly inspecting some bags when a threadbare respectably dressed approaches and advises buy in the bazaar where are cheaper. It's rare to Indian approaches without ulterior motive so I wait. He asks if I know anyone could help him get work. stenographer. He says he turned down for a job. British High Commission says how, as a Christian name is Laurence Mitche Hindu discriminate a him because Christians st. the British. He wonders I could have held some against him: this turns out a much-used cloth-backed purporting to be from a saying that Mitchell served ten years in goal result of misfortune: viz, I killed someone, a Hindu, train who wanted to throw his Bible. Mitchell, it is, trained boxer, had punched in the solar plexus and killed him (this reminds me the superstition among British that Hindus cave in easily if you punch them). seemed like the work fevered imagination to me who knows? In India any is possible.

After that had failed to my sympathy he produced letter from, supposedly, firm offering him a job. he couldn't take up for he the fare to see them. He to work for someone who give him the money if I know any such person, suggest car-washing and mass. Finally he asked for more he was 'giddy with hunger' I didn't give him any, fe that the performance was smooth, the letter being backed and so on. Also I just given him three rupees a meal and my generosity exhausted.

Walking along the st platform a completely a holy man carrying only a with a brass end like a wand rod and a metal water-jug which he splashed some w on himself. His buried a urnful num colour. In this same yesterday I saw a priest being marched along in a padded handcuffs with a tied round his middle, (so called rather) one of them holding end of the rope. He was a looking young chap.

J. G. Farrell's unfinished novel *The Hill Station*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on 23 at £8.50.

*The Hill Station and Ind Diary* © 1981 by the Estate of the late J. G. Farrell.



## Clive Barnes New York Notebook

### At war with Laura

What a strange and wonderful play August Strindberg wrote in *The Father*, currently staged here at the Circle in the Square. Strindberg — largely an autobiographical playwright like O'Neill — saw life as a battle between the sexes, a battle that women are doomed to win. Strindberg puts it explicitly enough in *The Father*: "Love between a man and a woman is war." But, of course, while Strindberg's women may be victorious, for love itself is destroyed and there are no survivors.

*The Father* tells of a man's descent into madness. The captain of a small Swedish parson town at the end of the 19th century lives in a domineering, woman-dominated household that has a joyless atmosphere like *A Winter Night*. The captain wishes his daughter to leave home and study school teaching in the nearby town. His wife wishes the girl to stay at home. To achieve her end the wife, Laura, systematically, by the annihilation of her husband's will and the seduction of his reason is as ruthless as a praying mantis destroying her unwanted, unneeded mate.

The captain, a freethinker and presumably an agnostic, is immortality in terms of human achievement and paternity: at one point he describes his daughter as "a promise of immortality." He also has his scientific research on meteorites. Laura easily thwarts his studies by intercepting his mail and cutting off his necessary supplies of books. Yet this is not enough. She must have complete control of her daughter, and to achieve this her husband must be totally destroyed. She attacks him through the daughter.

Strindberg raises the issue of paternity at the beginning of the play. A young corporal is brought before the captain, charged with getting a servant girl pregnant. The soldier objects — pointing out that while a child's mother is never in doubt, who can be sure of the father. From this seed of doubt grows the twisted tree of the play. Laura recognizes his weakness, plunges in and raises doubts as to whether the child is indeed the captain's, or the result of some other affair. The captain sees the hook, but seizes the bait. His mind poisoned, his will eroded, he is already only steps away from madness, violence and the straitjacket.

The fault of the play — and it is a technical difficulty rather than a dramatic flaw — is that its action is too rapid. One minute we have the captain sane and apparently in command of his life and household, and almost the next we find him grovelling on the floor like a mock Othello in whiteface. It is the function of both director and actor to give the captain some sense of impending madness, some tell-tale crack in the military facade, right from the beginning. This is an effect Goran Graffman, a Swedish director straight from Stockholm's Royal Theatre, and he actor, Ralph Waite, do not manage — indeed, they scarcely attempt it.

Graffman's depicting of the leak house, hung with the heavy draperies of hatred, is neat, and Frances Sternhagen as the matter-of-fact Laura, a poisonous hand in a scented love, is blind-headedly amoral as the wife destroying her husband as if he were a weed in the garden. Other nearly weightless performances come from I. B. Brydon as the ambiguous untried doctor and Pauline Lanagan, only slightly over, as the captain's old nurse. The powerful Mr. Waite, however, does not quite get the measure of the neurotic, rather fixated captain. When he breaks, the captain should erupt in a blaze of volcanic, onyxiac madness. Years ago I saw Michael Redgrave do just that with the role, making Strindberg's corrosively unerring self-portrait into another's boy gone mad. Strindberg demands no less.

It needs acting on the dangerous brink of reality, with touch of real madness here and there.

The Houston Ballet, which is the latest of the companies to come to the Brooklyn Academy of Music as part of what must now be seen as its marvellously successful Ballet America season, is first of all Texan, second of all American, and last of all British. And at times its accent comes out as quite remarkably British. There are sensible reasons for this. Brooklyn has called its Ballet America "a national celebration of dance" — the Brooklyn Academy of Music has presented a remarkable spectrum of American classic ballet, including the San Francisco Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, and the Ohio Ballet.

The season as a whole has been more successful than any of us had a right to expect. More than anything it has proved a signal demonstration of what use can be made of the comparatively tiny sum of money, compared with every other moderately successful American company, given by the government. Of course if the present administration is permitted to have its willful way with the arts, then, of course, we will never see this kind of season again. It will disappear in a tiny gust of unnecessary smoke.

Meanwhile, before the axe falls with almost childlike stupidity, we have the modest chance of enjoying the arts as if such enjoyment were as important as education. Well, not quite, but it is fascinating — in America, the way to see what is particularly interesting about the Houston Ballet is the presence of Ben Stevenson as its artistic director who, although he has lived and worked in the United States for many years, is a British background. He took his British and London Festival Ballet, and moreover, to its advantage. But Texas, deep in its heart is Texas — and any Houston Ballet, at least if it intends to survive, is going to have that hint and glint of Texas to it.

Stevenson has achieved something very special in Houston. It is something rather similar to what John Cranko achieved in Stuttgart. He took his British background, his training and artistic complexity, and transferred it to alien soil. The comparison is scarcely precise. When Cranko went to Stuttgart he went as a well-established choreographer, on his first assignment after Britain. Stevenson went to Houston after many years in America, including years spent as artistic director of the National Ballet in Washington and the Harkness youth company. But experience will always prove less lucky than talent.

Stevenson is talented. How talented he demonstrated with the New York premiere of *Four Last Songs*, to the music of Richard Strauss. This is quite conceivably going to prove the work of the year. The dancers move with power and grace that has a peculiar heavy to call its own. It worked so handsomely, as the dancers became both lost and found in a whirligig of style. As a choreographer I said Stevenson was talented. His ballet glows and erupts. It catches with an odd precision that particular backward magic of Strauss — those last words oddly more decent than nostalgic — and the dancers move through its effortless diversions with exactly the right kind of eloquence.

Throughout the evening the company looked, and indeed was, excellent. But nothing matched the absolutely precise and haunting Stevenson elegy to the swift, sweet, at times even hurtful, memory of life. Glen Tetley's *Prædium*, having its New York debut, and John Cranko's *The Lady and the Fool* completed a programme that skillfully made the very most of its dancers. But it was Stevenson's *Four Last Songs* that gave the evening its gesture of genius. It sang perfectly to that oddly ebullient deathnote that Richard Strauss selected, with such knowing consciousness, for his funeral message.



August Strindberg: mad about mother

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## Chess

## When your opponent's away

The March number of the *British Chess Magazine* contains an interesting article, entitled *Odds and Ends* written by the deputy editor, Bernard Cafferty, who is due to become editor when Brian Reilly retires later this year.

It contains one or two points to which I think I can add a little, but before so doing, let me say how valuable an addition to the editorial staff of the *BCM* Cafferty is. Among his many accomplishments is an excellent knowledge and command of Russian which has enabled him, for instance, to translate some passages from a book entitled *The First Steps* published in 1968 and written by the veteran Soviet organiser, V. V. Yermeyev, who died in late 1980.

They contain many reminiscences of a period between the two wars concerning the first international tournaments held in the USSR. One was about the great international tournament at Moscow in 1925. In a game in the third round between the 20-year-old Mexican master, Carlos Torre, and the veteran American champion Frank Marshall, the latter, studying the board while his opponent was away from it, suddenly he made his move and then walked round to the opposite side to see what it looked like from there. Realizing it was a weak one, he went back to his seat and took the move back!

Some spectators reported the matter and the two arbiters, one of whom was Yermeyev, informed Marshall that the move must stand.

Before I explain in horror at Marshall's outrageous conduct I should perhaps explain that at that time the rules of chess were in a state of considerable confusion.

At least he had the grace to stop his opponent's clock and that brings me to an incident involving chess-clocks and the question of one's absence from the board that might perhaps be regarded as more reprehensible.

I was studying in the great Morozky Memorial Tournament at Budapest in 1952, an event that was immensely strong since it contained the then World Champion, Botvinnik, and four more Soviet grandmasters, Keres, Smyslov, Geller and Petrosian, all of whom were somewhere near the peak of their powers.

It was, I believe, Petrosian's first tournament abroad so what happened in his game with me may be attributed rather to natural cunning than to practised deception. Like Torre I was a peripatetic player and as soon as I made my move I would wander away to look at the other games. Coming back, I was astonished to find my clock going although it was still Petrosian's turn to move and although I knew I had pressed my clock lever down. Petrosian must have started my clock and that he did it deliberately was confirmed by the *British Chess Magazine*, 9 Market Street, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DQ. The annual subscription is £9.60 and this means that for only 60 pence more than the

de Galway, of all this and later on O'Kelly came to me and said "I've told Botvinnik about this and he says he will speak to Petrosian and it will not happen again". Perhaps in Erevan in 1952 and in New York in 1925 it was believed that the rules did not apply when your opponent was absent from the board.

The other item in the *Candid Reminiscences* relates to Capablanca's first air flight. He had been playing in the Moscow Tournament of 1936 and went on to Kiev by train, accompanied by Yermeyev as guide and interpreter.

Time would not allow them to continue their tour by train and, on arriving at Kiev Airport, Capablanca found the small one-engine plane so unimpressive that he said he had to make his will leaving his estate to his wife. He offered it to Yermeyev but the latter pointed out that in the case of a crash the will would be lost anyway so it was left with the airport superintendent.

I too have visited the delightful city of Kiev. It was after the Moscow Olympiad of 1956. I had accepted an invitation to play in the great Alekhine Memorial tournament that was due to commence a week after the end of the Olympiad. Those of us who came from abroad and were invited to play in the tournament had been asked where we would like to go during the interval and I, having been told by Bronstein of the Russian saying "Your tongue will lead you to Kiev" and also wishing to see the place of the Great Gate of Kiev so vividly described by Mouskorsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*, chose Kiev.

In recognition of the pleasant Ukrainian hospitality I gave a simultaneous display in Kiev. It was quite a large one, some 30-odd boards, and when one gives such a display the best course is to concentrate on the weaker players in order to dispose of them as soon as possible. One soon finds out which are the weaker players and matters went smoothly at first until I was much disconcerted to find the weaker players suddenly producing strong moves. A look at the spectators revealed the explanation. Behind each weak point they had stationed a Soviet master who was advising the player what to do.

I made a score of something like 56 per cent and was a little disconcerted at this, my worst result ever. "Never mind" they kindly said, "when Capablanca came here in 1936 he had a worse result." Only politeness made me refrain from replying: "I suppose you stationed grandmasters behind the weak points then."

Cafferty's article contains some more entertaining notes about Capablanca at Kiev but if you want to enjoy them you will have to get them from the *BCM*. If you are not a subscriber to the magazine you can become one by sending the sub. to the *British Chess Magazine*, 9 Market Street, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DQ. The annual subscription is £9.60 and this means that for only 60 pence more than the

cost of becoming a Social Democrat you will, for at least one day every month for a year, be able to forget the dire political state of this country.

The Games Editor of the magazine is international master Bill Hartston, whom many will know for his entertaining comments on the Master Game on television. Here is a game of his which he won at the Australian Open at Brisbane last year and which appears in the March issue.

White: J. Kloostera Black: W. R. Hartston  
1. P4d P4d 2. P4f P4f 3. P4e P4e 4. P4c P4c 5. P4b P4b 6. P4a P4a 7. P4g P4g 8. P4h P4h 9. P4i P4i 10. P4j P4j 11. P4k P4k 12. P4l P4l 13. P4m P4m 14. P4n P4n 15. P4o P4o 16. P4p P4p 17. P4q P4q 18. P4r P4r 19. P4s P4s 20. P4t P4t 21. P4u P4u 22. P4v P4v 23. P4w P4w 24. P4x P4x 25. P4y P4y 26. P4z P4z 27. P4A P4A 28. P4B P4B 29. P4C P4C 30. P4D P4D 31. P4E P4E 32. P4F P4F 33. P4G P4G 34. P4H P4H 35. P4I P4I 36. P4J P4J 37. P4K P4K 38. P4L P4L 39. P4M P4M 40. P4N P4N 41. P4O P4O 42. P4P P4P 43. P4Q P4Q 44. P4R P4R 45. P4S P4S 46. P4T P4T 47. P4U P4U 48. P4V P4V 49. P4W P4W 50. P4X P4X 51. P4Y P4Y 52. P4Z P4Z 53. P4A P4A 54. P4B P4B 55. P4C P4C 56. P4D P4D 57. P4E P4E 58. P4F P4F 59. P4G P4G 60. P4H P4H 61. P4I P4I 62. P4J P4J 63. P4K P4K 64. P4L P4L 65. P4M P4M 66. P4N P4N 67. P4O P4O 68. P4P P4P 69. P4Q P4Q 70. P4R P4R 71. P4S P4S 72. P4T P4T 73. P4U P4U 74. P4V P4V 75. P4W P4W 76. P4X P4X 77. P4Y P4Y 78. P4Z P4Z 79. P4A P4A 80. P4B P4B 81. P4C P4C 82. P4D P4D 83. P4E P4E 84. P4F P4F 85. P4G P4G 86. P4H P4H 87. P4I P4I 88. P4J P4J 89. P4K P4K 90. P4L P4L 91. P4M P4M 92. P4N P4N 93. P4O P4O 94. P4P P4P 95. P4Q P4Q 96. P4R P4R 97. P4S P4S 98. P4T P4T 99. P4U P4U 100. P4V P4V 101. P4W P4W 102. P4X P4X 103. P4Y P4Y 104. P4Z P4Z 105. P4A P4A 106. P4B P4B 107. P4C P4C 108. P4D P4D 109. P4E P4E 110. P4F P4F 111. P4G P4G 112. P4H P4H 113. P4I P4I 114. P4J P4J 115. P4K P4K 116. P4L P4L 117. P4M P4M 118. P4N P4N 119. P4O P4O 120. P4P P4P 121. P4Q P4Q 122. P4R P4R 123. P4S P4S 124. P4T P4T 125. P4U P4U 126. P4V P4V 127. P4W P4W 128. P4X P4X 129. P4Y P4Y 130. P4Z P4Z 131. P4A P4A 132. P4B P4B 133. P4C P4C 134. P4D P4D 135. P4E P4E 136. P4F P4F 137. P4G P4G 138. P4H P4H 139. P4I P4I 140. P4J P4J 141. P4K P4K 142. P4L P4L 143. P4M P4M 144. P4N P4N 145. P4O P4O 146. P4P P4P 147. P4Q P4Q 148. P4R P4R 149. P4S P4S 150. P4T P4T 151. P4U P4U 152. P4V P4V 153. P4W P4W 154. P4X P4X 155. P4Y P4Y 156. P4Z P4Z 157. P4A P4A 158. P4B P4B 159. P4C P4C 160. P4D P4D 161. P4E P4E 162. P4F P4F 163. P4G P4G 164. P4H P4H 165. P4I P4I 166. P4J P4J 167. P4K P4K 168. P4L P4L 169. P4M P4M 170. P4N P4N 171. P4O P4O 172. P4P P4P 173. P4Q P4Q 174. P4R P4R 175. P4S P4S 176. P4T P4T 177. P4U P4U 178. P4V P4V 179. P4W P4W 180. P4X P4X 181. P4Y P4Y 182. P4Z P4Z 183. P4A P4A 184. P4B P4B 185. P4C P4C 186. P4D P4D 187. P4E P4E 188. P4F P4F 189. P4G P4G 190. P4H P4H 191. P4I P4I 192. P4J P4J 193. P4K P4K 194. P4L P4L 195. P4M P4M 196. P4N P4N 197. P4O P4O 198. P4P P4P 199. P4Q P4Q 200. P4R P4R 201. P4S P4S 202. P4T P4T 203. P4U P4U 204. P4V P4V 205. P4W P4W 206. P4X P4X 207. P4Y P4Y 208. P4Z P4Z 209. P4A P4A 210. P4B P4B 211. P4C P4C 212. P4D P4D 213. P4E P4E 214. P4F P4F 215. P4G P4G 216. P4H P4H 217. P4I P4I 218. P4J P4J 219. P4K P4K 220. P4L P4L 221. P4M P4M 222. P4N P4N 223. P4O P4O 224. P4P P4P 225. P4Q P4Q 226. P4R P4R 227. P4S P4S 228. P4T P4T 229. P4U P4U 230. P4V P4V 231. P4W P4W 232. P4X P4X 233. P4Y P4Y 234. P4Z P4Z 235. P4A P4A 236. P4B P4B 237. P4C P4C 238. P4D P4D 239. P4E P4E 240. P4F P4F 241. P4G P4G 242. P4H P4H 243. P4I P4I 244. P4J P4J 245. P4K P4K 246. P4L P4L 247. P4M P4M 248. P4N P4N 249. P4O P4O 250. P4P P4P 251. P4Q P4Q 252. P4R P4R 253. P4S P4S 254. P4T P4T 255. P4U P4U 256. P4V P4V 257. P4W P4W 258. P4X P4X 259. P4Y P4Y 260. P4Z P4Z 261. P4A P4A 262. P4B P4B 263. P4C P4C 264. P4D P4D 265. P4E P4E 266. P4F P4F 267. P4G P4G 268. P4H P4H 269. P4I P4I 270. P4J P4J 271. P4K P4K 272. P4L P4L 273. P4M P4M 274. P4N P4N 275. P4O P4O 276. P4P P4P 277. P4Q P4Q 278. P4R P4R 279. P4S P4S 280. P4T P4T 281. P4U P4U 282. P4V P4V 283. P4W P4W 284. P4X P4X 285. P4Y P4Y 286. P4Z P4Z 287. P4A P4A 288. P4B P4B 289. P4C P4C 290. P4D P4D 291. P4E P4E 292. P4F P4F 293. P4G P4G 294. P4H P4H 295. P4I P4I 296. P4J P4J 297. P4K P4K 298. P4L P4L 299. P4M P4M 300. P4N P4N 301. P4O P4O 302. P4P P4P 303. P4Q P4Q 304. P4R P4R 305. P4S P4S 306. P4T P4T 307. P4U P4U 308. P4V P4V 309. P4W P4W 310. P4X P4X 311. P4Y P4Y 312. P4Z P4Z 313. P4A P4A 314. P4B P4B 315. P4C P4C 316. P4D P4D 317. P4E P4E 318. P4F P4F 319. P4G P4G 320. P4H P4H 321. P4I P4I 322. P4J P4J 323. P4K P4K 324. P4L P4L 325. P4M P4M 326. P4N P4N 327. P4O P4O 328. P4P P4P 329. P4Q P4Q 330. P4R P4R 331. P4S P4S 332. P4T P4T 333. P4U P4U 334. P4V P4V 335. P4W P4W 336. P4X P4X 337. P4Y P4Y 338. P4Z P4Z 339. P4A P4A 340. P4B P4B 341. P4C P4C 342. P4D P4D 343. P4E P4E 344. P4F P4F 345. P4G P4G 346. P4H P4H 347. P4I P4I 348. P4J P4J 349. P4K P4K 350. P4L P4L 351. P4M P4M 352. P4N P4N 353. P4O P4O 354. P4P P4P 355. P4Q P4Q 356. P4R P4R 357. P4S P4S 358. P4T P4T 359. P4U P4U 360. P4V P4V 361. P4W P4W 362. P4X P4X 363. P4Y P4Y 364. P4Z P4Z 365. P4A P4A 366. P4B P4B 367. P4C P4C 368. P4D P4D 369. P4E P4E 370. P4F P4F 371. P4G P4G 372. P4H P4H 373. P4I P4I 374. P4J P4J 375. P4K P4K 376. P4L P4L 377. P4M P4M 378. P4N P4N 379. P4O P4O 380. P4P P4P 381. P4Q P4Q 382. P4R P4R 383. P4S P4S 384. P4T P4T 385. P4U P4U 386. P4V P4V 387. P4W P4W 388. P4X P4X 389. P4Y P4Y 390. P4Z P4Z 391. P4A P4A 392. P4B P4B 393. P4C P4C 394. P4D P4D 395. P4E P4E 396. P4F P4F 397. P4G P4G 398. P4H P4H 399. P4I P4I 400. P4J P4J 401. P4K P4K 402. P4L P4L 403. P4M P4M 404. P4N P4N 405. P4O P4O 406. P4P P4P 407. P4Q P4Q 408. P4R P4R 409. P4S P4S 410. P4T P4T 411. P4U P4U 412. P4V P4V 413. P4W P4W 414. P4X P4X 415. P4Y P4Y 416. P4Z P4Z 417. P4A P4A 418. P4B P4B 419. P4C P4C 420. P4D P4D 421. P4E P4E 422. P4F P4F 423. P4G P4G 424. P4H P4H 425. P4I P4I 426. P4J P4J 427. P4K P4K 428. P4L P4L 429. P4M P4M 430. P4N P4N 431. P4O P4O 432. P4P P4P 433. P4Q P4Q 434. P4R P4R 435. P4S P4S 436. P4T P4T 437. P4U P4U 438. P4V P4V 439. P4W P4W 440. P4X P4X 441. P4Y P4Y 442. P4Z P4Z 443. P4A P4A 444. P4B P4B 445. P4C P4C 446. P4D P4D 447. P4E P4E 448. P4F P4F 449. P4G P4G 450. P4H P4H 451. P4I P4I 452. P4J P4J 453. P4K P4K 454. P4L P4L 455. P4M P4M 456. P4N P4N 457. P4O P4O 458. P4P P4P 459. P4Q P4Q 460. P4R P4R 461. P4S P4S 462. P4T P4T 463. P4U P4U 464. P4V P4V 465. P4W P4W 466. P4X P4X 467. P4Y P4Y 468. P4Z P4Z 469. P4A P4A 470. P4B P4B 471. P4C P4C 472. P4D P4D 473. P4E P4E 474. P4F P4F 475. P4G P4G 476. P4H P4H 477. P4I P4I 478. P4J P4J 479. P4K P4K 480. P4L P4L 481. P4M P4M 482. P4N P4N 483. P4O P4O 484. P4P P4P 485. P4Q P4Q 486. P4R P4R 487. P4S P4S 488. P4T P4T 489. P4U P4U 490. P4V P4V 491. P4W P4W 492. P4X P4X 493. P4Y P4Y 494. P4Z P4Z 495. P4A P4A 496. P4B P4B 497. P4C P4C 498. P4D P4D 499. P4E P4E 500. P4F P4F 501. P4G P4G 502. P4H P4H 503. P4I P4I 504. P4J P4J 505. P4K P4K 506. P4L P4L 507. P4M P4M 508. P4N P4N 509. P4O P4O 510. P4P P4P 511. P4Q P4Q 512. P4R P4R 513. P4S P4S 514. P4T P4T 515. P4U P4U 516. P4V P4V 517. P4W P4W 518. P4X P4X 519. P4Y P4Y 520. P4Z P4Z 521. P4A P4A 522. P4B P4B 523. P4C P4C 524. P4D P4D 525. P4E P4E 526. P4F P4F 527. P4G P4G 528. P4H P4H 529. P4I P4I 530. P4J P4J 531. P4K P4K 532. P4L P4L 533. P4M P4M 534. P4N P4N 535. P4O P4O 536. P4P P4P 537. P4Q P4Q 538. P4R P4R 539. P4S P4S 540. P4T P4T 541. P4U P4U 542. P4V P4V 543. P4W P4W 544. P4X P4X 545. P4Y P4Y 546. P4Z P4Z 547. P4A P4A 548. P4B P4B 549. P4C P4C 550. P4D P4D 551. P4E P4E 552. P4F P4F 553. P4G P4G 554. P4H P4H 555. P4I P4I 556. P4J P4J 557. P4K P4K 558. P4L P4L 559. P4M P4M 560. P4N P4N 561. P4O P4O 562. P4P P4P 563. P4Q P4Q 564. P4R P4R 565. P4S P4S 566. P4T P4T 567. P4U P4U 568. P4V P4V 569. P4W P4W 570. P4X P4X 571. P4Y P4Y 572. P4Z P4Z 573. P4A P4A 574. P4B P4B 575. P4C P4C 576. P4D P4D 577. P4E P4E 578. P4F P4F 579. P4G P4G 580. P4H P4H 581. P4I P4I 582. P4J P4J 583. P4K P4K 584. P4L P4L 585. P4M P4M 586. P4N P4N 587. P4O P4O 588. P4P P4P 589. P4Q P4Q 590. P4R P4R 591. P4S P4S 592. P4T P4T 593. P4U P4U 594. P4V P4V 595. P4W P4W 596. P4X P4X 597. P4Y P4Y 598. P4Z P4Z 599. P4A P4A 600. P4B P4B 601. P4C P4C 602. P4D P4D 603. P4E P4E 604. P4F P4F 605. P4G P4G 606. P4H P4H 607. P4I P4I 608. P4J P4J 609. P4K P4K 610. P4L P4L 611. P4M P4M 612. P4N P4N 613. P4O P4O 614. P4P P4P 615. P4Q P4Q 616. P4R P4R 617. P4S P4S 618. P4T P4T 619. P4U P4U 620. P4V P4V 621. P4W P4W 622. P4X P4X 623. P4Y P4Y 624. P4Z P4Z 625. P4A P4A 626. P4B P4B 627. P4C P4C 628. P4D P4D 629. P4E P4E 630. P4F P4F 631. P4G P4G 632. P4H P4H 633. P4I P4I 634. P4J P4J 635. P4K P4K 636. P4L P4L 637. P4M P4M 638. P4N P4N 639. P4O P4O 640. P4P P4P 641. P4Q P4Q 642. P4R P4R 643. P4S P4S 644. P4T P4T 645. P4U P4U 646. P4V P4V 647. P4W P4W 648. P4X P4X 649. P4Y P4Y 650. P4Z P4Z 651. P4A P4A 652. P4B P4B 653. P4C P4C 654. P4D P4D 655. P4E P4E 656. P4F P4F 657. P4G P4G 658. P4H P4H 659. P4I P4I 660. P4J P4J 661. P4K P4K 662. P4L P4L 663. P4M P4M 664. P4N P4N 665. P4O P4O 666. P4P P4P 667. P4Q P4Q 668. P4R P4R 669. P4S P4S 670. P4T P4T 671. P4U P4U 672. P4V P4V 673. P4W P4W 674. P4X P4X 675. P4Y P4Y 676. P4Z P4Z 677. P4A P4A 678. P4B P4B 679. P4C P4C 680. P4D P4D 681. P4E P4E 682. P4F P4F 683. P4G P4G 684. P4H P4H 685. P4I P4I 686. P4J P4J 687. P4K P4K 688. P4L P4L 689. P4M P4M 690. P4N P4N 691. P4O P4O 692. P4P P4P 693. P4Q P4Q 694. 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P4L P4L 923. P4M P4M 924. P4N P4N 925. P4O P4O 926. P4P P4P 927. P4Q P4Q 928. P4R P4R 929. P4S P4S 930. P4T P4T 931. P4U P4U 932. P4V P4V 933. P4W P4W 934. P4X P4X 935. P4Y P4Y 936. P4Z P4Z 937. P4A P4A 938. P4B P



## What our Stanley did for stamps

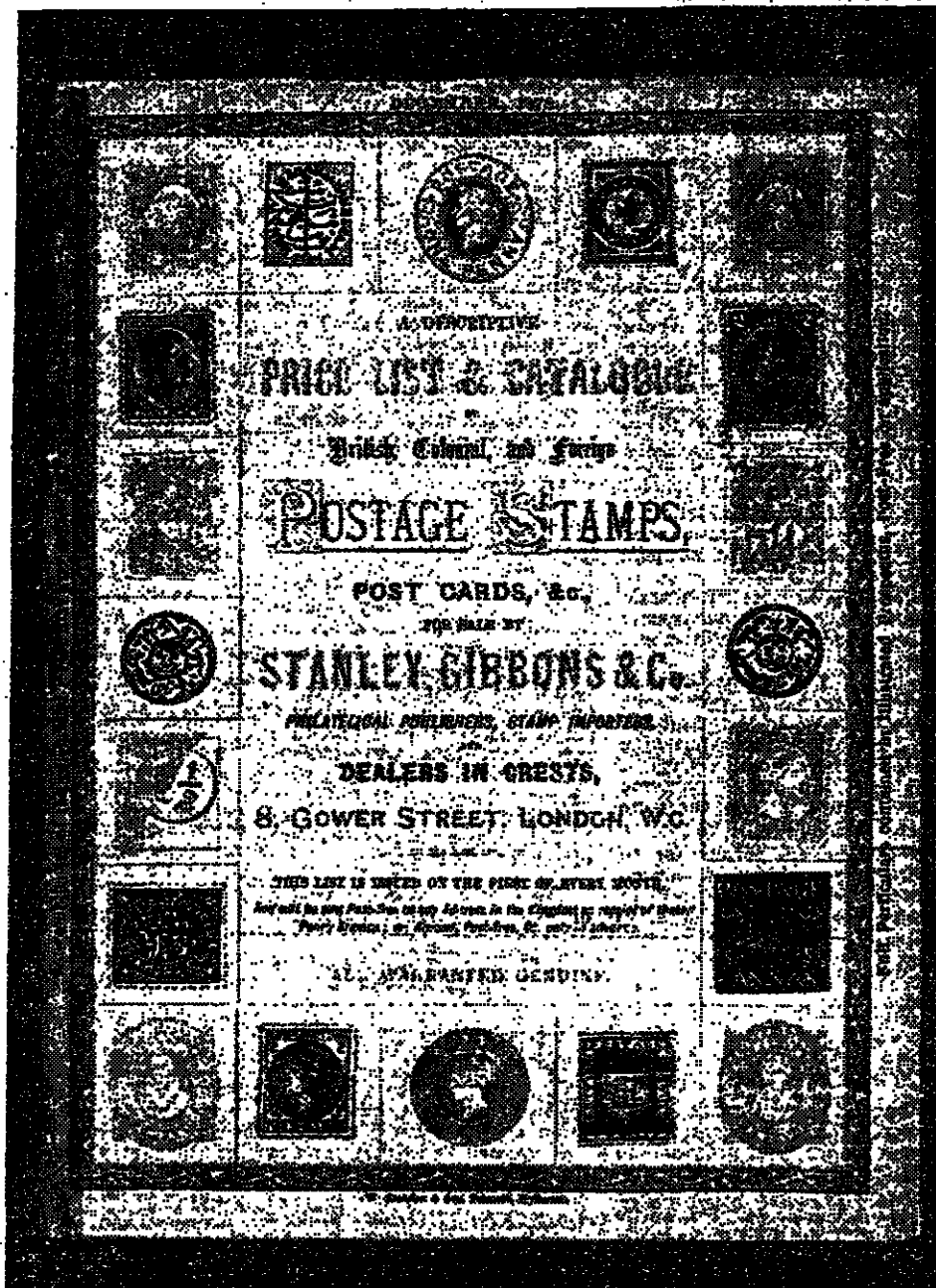
to be easy words to understand, and the heading "What you should know" says what they mean, but Stanley Gibbons have their own interpretation.

"A stamp in fine average condition" is one of the terms experts told me, "is one without faults, creases, pin holes, or surface damage and has found no insect perforations." It is a pity they don't say all that, and more, perhaps even with diagrams, in *Colnect British Stamp*.

It would appear, in other words, that when you read an SG price, you are looking at the price for the very best examples of the stamp. It may well be, perhaps the top 10 per cent which exist. That's really not much use to the beginner. I would like to see the middle price, the average, the median price, the average stamp, not the top end and not the bottom end of the market.

My friendly SG expert denied that their prices only refer to a small number of stamps and says they refer to stamps which "collectors aim for".

**PARLIAMENT, April 10, 1**  
**MP speaks up for**  
**Britain: proud of**  
**each day in House**

[illegible]

**Stanley Gibbons's shop in the Strand in 1878 and one of his price lists : it all began in his father's chemist shop**

## Gardening

## How to take it with you

de Girmare, from Tracy (the owners of the local Château de Tracy claim kinship with the Stuarts) is full, almost fat, excellent with a buttery or richly sauced dish. (It costed \$4.15 from Michael Edwards Wines, 16 Berkeley Row, Sussex. He can supply only the case lot but can make up mixed cases from his interesting short list.) The Pouilly Fumé 1979 (Les Champs de la Croix) of Pabiot Père et Fils, a highly reputable producer, is assertively fragrant, with plenty of fruit and a four-square style (as from the 1978 vintage).

— the vineyards of the upper Loire — seem particularly appropriate.

The great grape makes assertively dry wines that are nevertheless without any touch of what some people find bitterness in other dry whites; the bouquet has a wonderful "green" freshness that charms and the wines have sufficient weight not to be overpowered by rather fat food, although vinegar ought not to be sprinkled on the fish and, if

lemon juice is, then be sure to do it with the left hand only holding the lemon — otherwise the drinker will find that the stem of the wine glass smells so strongly of lemon that the wine's bouquet has to battle to be noticed.

The soil of the Pouilly and Sancerre vineyards is high in chalk and silex, endowing the white wines with delectable

refinement; the vines in this cool region, are at risk from frosts and rain — "The beans have got the frost on them, Off I go to harvest my Sauvignon," says a local song. The suffix Blanc Fumé refers to the local

name, for the Sauvignon, the ordinary Pouillys being made from the Chasselas.

Most merchants have at least one example of wines from the two vineyards. They possess a stylishness that will please the

wine lover far more than the insipidity of a suspiciously "cheap" white Burgundy: a fair price for a fine white Burgundy will certainly be about one-third more than a good upper Loire Sauvignon. In general, Sancerre

is supposed to be slightly finer than Pouilly, but varying vintages can prove notable exceptions; to pair off the two in the same vintage provides an interesting comparison.

41. 1970: A QUARTER CENTURY OF THE

## Drink

## Careful with the lemon

Chaudoux is a zippy youthfulness, wine, possessing immediate charm (about \$4 from Michael Edwards), whereas Layton (1979) Sancerre, fine-drawn but agreeable, is light in weight (it costs \$3.85) and Loeb's 1978 Sancerre, which is rather aloof as regards smell, is more elongated wine on the palate (ES.29). All are good wines, which will guests prefer? With wine of such directness, a pair or trio at any table will provoke animated comment. Indeed, these wines can be drunk with meat as well as fish and chicken, so their versatility is

Menemou-Salon, about half the way between Bourges and Sancerre, makes wines that can be so straightforward as to be boring. But the 1979 example from Alphonse Mellot is enjoyable and aristocratic, a bit more muscular than might be expected and with considerable length (\$3.22 from branches of Victoria Wine). The soil of this vineyard is heavier, with more

clay, than those of Sancerre and Pouilly and so a touch of firmness, occasionally softness, is - sometimes noticeable, especially as, being a little farther south, the vineyards enjoy a slightly warmer climate.

This applies also to Quincy, not often seen on export lists. The 1979 of Raymond Poper is also unusual for being bottled "sur lie" in other words, without the wine having been racked off its lees, the initial liveliness being pleasantly retained. This is a charming

It would be a fine centerpiece at a fish dinner (6.33) from Ashlynn, Hertfordshire House, Wood Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts). Yapp have the very unusual red *Monstrum-Salco* (5.35) and two wines, white and red, from the tiny Reville vineyard, slightly north-west of Quincy, the red being made from the Gamay (3.12) and the white Sauvignon (3.30) both from the Gordier Brothers. Do not over-chill these bodied whites. An hour in the

refrigerator or 15 minutes in a bucket of ice and water will be sufficient to let the bouquet develop and the flavour broaden agreeably.

**Panella**

The proposal for a written Bill of Rights had just been made, and the speaker, in a magnificent display of individual liberties, but it had two defects which might be fatal; the fundamental rights changed and the Government would have seldom wanted pretexts. The point at which the Bill would be most needed would be that at which it was least wanted.

With Government and Opposition almost always in conflict, it was vital that there was an institution which was not subject to the influence of either, impartial and respected stability and consistency.

There is no special knowledge of the speaker's mind to surmise that of the Queen opening Parliament and I love to see foreigners less formalism our countrymen, and I love to see them from France and America, our own monarchy and its prestige.

This ceremony was almost as "holy" as the coronation, and times and fairs might still its marvelous ceremonies remain. (Cheers)

Some aspects of the Church today, said the speaker, under the Pope, spoke on the great Issues of Christianity. One sometimes got the impression that the modern Church was a "bureau" of the Government, a branch of the Department of Health and Social Security.

They had horrible views (he said). At least it is a safety valve having them here; it keeps them out of the streets on the corners (Laughter).

The strength of the constitution was that it had developed slowly over the centuries, and that it met their needs and was not a written document full of theory and vague, indefinable rights.

It will only work (he said) if we have government by gentlemen. If we have government by the people, there will always be enough gentlemen here to prevent the cads getting away with it.

He was not complacent about the country's institutions. He knew there were those working day and night to destroy them and to put in their place a new set of institutions, a new set behind the Iron Curtain. He hoped such people's activities were being watched.

He feared the people at large in the land of the media and the brainwashing that was done by progressives and the trendy, and the feelings of guilt and the sense of being a well born but a very average man and woman remained proud of his country, its history and its institutions.

## Electoral system produces a stable government

Mr Eric Glynne (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said he wanted a reformed second chamber.

A five year parliament was too short a time for any government to be responsible. It could be increased to seven years. But that could only be achieved if the membership of the chamber was to be elected by the electorate outside. He was wholly in favour of proportional representation.

Mr Clement Davies (Sale of Ely, Con) said that the proportional representation was not just for a new election system but to lend a new dignity to the House of Lords.

Mr Glynne said that only 33 per cent of the electorate voted for the present government.

There was a great deal with which the Government was not in accord, particularly the history of committee work.

Mr Douglas Hoag (Grantham, Con) said the consent of parliamentary sovereignty was not a sacred principle. It was a principle open to revision by the people.

Mr Glynne said that the House of Lords was the Hereditary habit of composing the House of Lords but he cautioned those who supported that view that they could expect to be disappointed.

To my mind, (he said) the existence of a senate - we would probably call it the House of Lords - is a necessary part of the British way - elected probably by proportional representation - could not be a development which would be inimical to the purposes of advancing progressive legislation.

I would have (he added) to rely on the wisdom of the judiciary rather than on the elected members of a legislature for the rights of the people.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, Aylesbury, C, said the Government was committed to the maintenance of a bicameral legislature as an essential element of the British constitution. It provided safeguards in regard to constitutional

the executive. What Parliament did became law and there was no obstacle to an infringement of rights if sanctioned by law. They had no effective second chamber or Bill of Rights.

Therefore if Parliament fell into disrepute, it was rich to the Government, which would be able to do anything it wished.

The Government believed the

He expressed enormous distrust of the Government, and said that they had provided that group with the instrument to carry through their policies.

He was not hostile to the Conservative Party, but he said they had a mandate to do whatever was in their manifesto. That was utter rubbish.

He was not hostile to the Conservative Party, but he said they had a mandate to do whatever was in their manifesto. That was utter rubbish.

It was not his intention to touch on the major issues of the day otherwise it was irrelevant. But he did not think it was a general principle to put the Government on the ground.

The Government had no settled policy on the Bill which had passed all stages in the House of Lords. All important proposals for constitutional change and the kind involved in any Bill of Rights would be proposed to the Government by agreement between political parties. The Government had no

An element of proportionality represented would be the House of Commons in higher esteem, but retaining communication between the MP and the constituency was of paramount importance. The second chamber must have a member system used in Germany. The second chamber must have wider powers of delay and revision and, must be elected. It would have to work with the first chamber. It should be elected by proportional representation, and at staggered intervals.

Mr Clive Soley (Hammersmith, Uxbridge and Ealing) said that he was informed to intimate talks at a suitable time.

The present rumour in the Labour party had a lot to do with fundamental constitutional issues. It was to do with whether ultimately it was going to be Parliamentary or a system of elected MPs to Parliament who were going to have the say as to how the country was governed, or whether ultimately there was going to be government at the behest of party apparatus.

If that was carried to the extreme, it ended up with non-accountability to the electorate, style, rather than parliamentary

democracy as it was known now. There was bound to be concern about the 'happening' of the Labour Party. The whole direction of the movement, epitomized by Mr Wedgwood Benn, staunch parliamentary socialist though he was seemed to be a complete break with the traditions of parliamentary democracy in the country. The debate was adjourned.

The Food and Drugs (Licensing) Bill, which gave certain premises from registration under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, closed its remaining stages.

House adjourned, 3.2 pm.

## EEC gives warning to Soviet Union over Poland

European Parliament in Strasbourg passed a resolution which warned that if Poland was not allowed to settle her internal problems without foreign inter-

The resolution was tabled by the USSR as the abnormal military presence of Warsaw Pact forces continued to threaten the security of the Balkans. East Otto Hauberg (Germany, EEC) said that if an amendment named by Mr. Johannes Penders (Netherlands, EEC), which would have required the USSR to take action against the Soviet Union, was carried, then the resolution would be an open encouragement to the East, making it clear that the USSR would not be willing or ready to go to the table as a position to protect Europe.

At the close of the debate, the amendment was declared null. The resolution was then passed by 35 votes to four with the USSR abstaining.

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**Roy Hay**

**Pamela Vanduyke Price**



Prints and patches ■ glamorous nights

# Shoparound

Original weddings ■ a gem of an idea

with Beryl Downing

## Co-ordinating the best of Britain

A range of Staffordshire lamp bases made in plain colours to co-ordinate with carpets, wallpapers and fabrics was launched last week by Debenhams. The price is remarkable — £7.99 — and the concept even more so. For Debenhams have been getting British manufacturers to work together to produce special, medium-price co-ordinates formerly found only in expensive interior decorator ranges.

This design exercise is part of the group's plan to cut foreign buying by 40 per cent this year and to increase the proportion of British goods in their stores from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. Unlike some other store groups who have been jumping on the Buy British bandwagon, they are not just flag waving for a few weeks' promotion. They are launching a plan which will last throughout the year.

Part of the reason that British names are disappearing from the High Street is that business has been so difficult for retailers that many have taken the soft option by buying cheaply abroad, says Brian Richmond, managing director (buying) of the group.

"We are now setting targets with 200 of our major British suppliers and we are prepared to accept lower margins if necessary. We don't want people to buy just because it is British but because it offers really good value."

To most shoppers, that might seem like the first time anyone from a

store group has talked sense since the recession began. It was a mystery to me that some shopkeepers, large and small, moaned about poor sales last year, particularly in fashion, while they tucked on anything up to a 140 per cent mark-up.

I know all about increased overheads, but don't any sales with a smaller profit margin add up to more than no sales because the price has frightened people off?

There is no such danger at Debenhams. Among their new bargains are some good-looking plain carpets in 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent nylon at £14.50 a square yard. They are made specially for the group by Tomkinsons and come in a range of expensive-looking colours. Ten are in stock, five are to order.

The Staffordshire lamps come in green, cream and pink to co-ordinate with the colours of Fogarty duvets and wallpapers — and those patterns can also be picked up in lampshades.

There is no danger of missing the best of British at Debenhams. The goods are all labelled with red, white and blue arrows, which are also hung about all the stores, pointing you in the right direction. And if you would like to see various versions of their co-ordinates, a fully furnished bungalow is on display now in their Sheffield store.

There is also a house in their Bristol store and they have decorated three more for the Milton Keynes 'Homeworld '81' housing exhibition which opens on May 2.

Below: A new range of mix and match porcelain, designed in Dallas by Fitz and Floyd, is a favourite in America and has just been introduced here by Heals, Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Highly decorative designs in bold colours have plain items in matching shades to give a greater opportunity for individual combinations. From a selection of designs, the plate in dark green, white and gold, is £14.20. Green and gold coffee or tea pot, £50.30.



## Patchwork prints

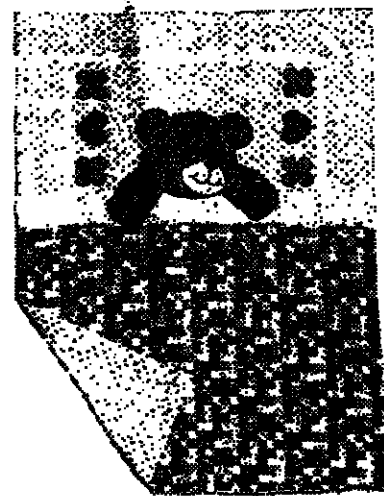
Already top of the shops for medium-priced furnishing fabrics, John Lewis has opened a new section with an emphasis on fabrics suitable for patchwork and other crafts. It also offers new American paper patterns, at £1.95 each, for patchwork and appliqué quilts and there is a range of toy fabrics, all ready to cut out and stuff.

The demand for special fabrics for patchwork has been increasing, but in fact the best designs have always been carefully planned and the new department has ranges of specially co-ordinated prints suitable for a variety of traditional patchwork designs. Most are in 114cm wide cotton at £2.45 a metre and there are ready-quilted fabrics 110cm wide at £5.95 a metre.

The ready-to-cut toys are printed in bright colours on strong cotton panels. You cut out the shapes, sew by hand or machine round three sides, stuff and stitch up the fourth side.

Elephant parade (three floral elephants, trunk to tail) costs £2.95 a panel. Other designs include a family of four nattily dressed cats at £2.95 each and three somewhat rural rabbits at £2.25 a panel. Filling is extra.

More animals feature on cot quilts, also sold by the panel at £6.50. This includes a ready-quilted front in a variety of designs, with a floral fabric back and sandwich of Terylene wadding. You simply cut it off the roll and bind the edges with bias, lace, ribbon or a special matching trimming at 99p a metre. You need 4.28 metres of the trimming.



## Stripping

For DIY enthusiasts who enjoy having fun with a little stripper, Stripline comes in powder form to be mixed with cold water to form a paste. It is used in conjunction with a "Magic Blanket" which is to be cut to the shape of the area to be stripped. For painted surfaces the

paste is applied to the surface to be stripped and covered with the blanket. For varnished surfaces apply the paste direct to the blanket and then lay it on the wood. For chairs and banister rails, the blanket is cut into strips and wrapped round like bandage.

Stripline works by dissolving and absorbing the paint without scraping and can take from 10 minutes to several hours to work — six hours is

the average. It comes in a 2 kilo pack, making enough paste to strip 16 sq. ft. It costs £5.79, including a pair of gloves and an applicator. The Magic Blanket, 3 sq. ft., costs £4.46 and can be reassembled by heat welding with a gas lighter — if you can be bothered to wash out all the gunge. Both are available, with £1 p&p on each item from Stripline, PO Box 5, Thame, Oxon, or telephone 0844-208573.

In the collection which show food — answers in some cases can be drawn. Quiz sheets from the Quiz Desk, Orange Street entrance, where you can also get details of a children's painting competition on the same food theme — first prize £100. Entries in both quiz and competition up to May 3. (Open Sundays, closed Good Friday).

The National Portrait Gallery

have a Strang's Strange Hats Hunt — no prizes, just fun. There are two quiz sheets — one with the outlines of hats appearing in William Strang's pictures, the other with questions about them. Young children just tick off the hats as they identify them in the pictures, budding art critics do the in-depth bit. Runs until June 28, open Sunday afternoons, closed Good Friday.

## A touch of undercover scandal from the north

A new shop specializing in glamorous underwear has opened in that home of north-east winds and nobly nightshirts — Newcastle upon Tyne. Brenda Gelder, the owner, saw that all her friends were having to shop in London, or even abroad, for really pretty lingerie, so she decided it was time for a spot of Scandal in Geordieland.

An ex-teacher with a hankering to run a business, she went about it in a most scholarly way — researching her subject for two years by visiting specialist lingerie shops throughout the country, picking brains and learning tricks of the trade before venturing to West Germany and France to buy.

She concentrates on pure fabrics — silk, wool and cotton — and she deals with small companies who are prepared to make specially for her.

From Belgium she has a T-shirt style nightie range, with unusual picture appliques and cotton Bermuda pyjama sets that double up as summer loungers. Both these ranges are by Vandy from about £26.

She also seeks out British designers with special talents. Next week her window will be full of delectable wisps of white silk — a first collection by a local company, Cucumber Cottage. It includes a nightdress cut on the bias so that it floats from the deep V back and front with a matching quilted and waisted jacket — together, £170.

Another set at the same price is in hand-painted silk by Jane Lindsey. It consists of pyjama trousers and cummerbund with jacket and cami-sole top painted with lilies and embroidered with beads.

For those who prefer cotton, there

are nightdresses and negligees from around £25 in broderie anglaise by Frances of Feminique, another local designer. She will make special sizes, not only in length but also to fit measurements that are too often expected by mass manufacturers of lingerie to be standard — width of arms, for instance.

The emphasis is on personal service — there is an attractive little salon on the first floor where customers can have a cup of coffee and discuss their preferences. "We have equally good taste in the suburbs, you know," says Brenda Gelder. "But we feel so deprived because we don't have the city shopper's opportunity."

If that's all you are waiting for, the address is Scandal Lingerie, 4 Merton Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne. Telephone: Ponteland 22831.



## Just right for the bride

Judging by present-day invitations, weddings are becoming friendlier, even if statistics suggest that marriages are not. So much tradition and protocol is involved with the ceremony that the summing up of the feast is one of the few ways in which a couple can add a touch of originality.

The more adventurous specialist shops have boxes of suitable cards which can be overprinted as you wish. Pulp, 108 Crawford Street, London W1 is one of these, offering boxes of cream cards embossed with a golden heart at the top, or white cards embossed with a series of raised white dots in the shape of a large white heart in the centre. Both these styles are £3.55 for eight, including envelopes, and there are cards with a broad silver edging and silver-lined envelopes, £4.50 for 20. Nice for silver wedding party invitations, too.

Diana Sherman, the owner of Pulp, is an illustrator and will produce special designs to order. She travels regularly to America, home of a great deal of the unconventional, interesting stationery she stocks, and has plenty of original suggestions — telephone 01-486 9351 — to make an appointment to discuss ideas.

Among the papers she uses for special printing is a parchment-type in an attractive range of colours — pink, white, champagne, natural and pale blue. It is called Parch Margee and costs £6 for 100 cards, £5 for 100 sheets of A4 paper. Printed in maroon on pink, or in brown on champagne, it looks very stylish. Art work, from £14, printing extra.

There is no need to stick rigidly to formal wording if you choose an unconventional layout for your invitations. "Mr and Mrs Peter Powell would like you to help them celebrate the marriage of their daughter," or even "Tony and Sheila invite you to their wedding at 5.30 on acceptable these days as requesting the pleasure of your company."

It is also becoming more popular to carry the design theme of the invitation through all the wedding stationery — order of service sheets for the church, place cards at the reception, for instance. One of the most attractive designs I have seen had silhouettes of the couple's profiles set in oval surrounds above a

decorative lover's knot. Both invitations and order of service were printed in lampshades on heavy paper. For a similarly creative design, first catch your own artist. Unless you happen to know one personally, this could be more difficult than you think, as commercial studios cannot afford to specialize in wedding stationery alone. Finding an original theme on the subject of weddings takes as much time in the thinking as in the drawing, so costs of artwork could be anything from £50 to £150.

You could approach your local art college, whose graphic design students might be persuaded to express their talents for a reward you would both consider reasonable.

If, however, you live in or near London and want to take the easy way out and let experts arrange everything, from the invitations to the invoices, there is a company called CC Management Consultants whose Top Drawer wedding arrangements are so comprehensive they only just stop short of choosing the groom.

The service is run by Heather Pickering, who for eight years has been involved in organizing what she describes as "up-market commercial functions". These included a jousting tournament at Knobworth House and the only private Minge of Arundel Castle for a dinner party. At the moment she is busy finding office space along the royal wedding route to ensure that her clients get the best possible view.

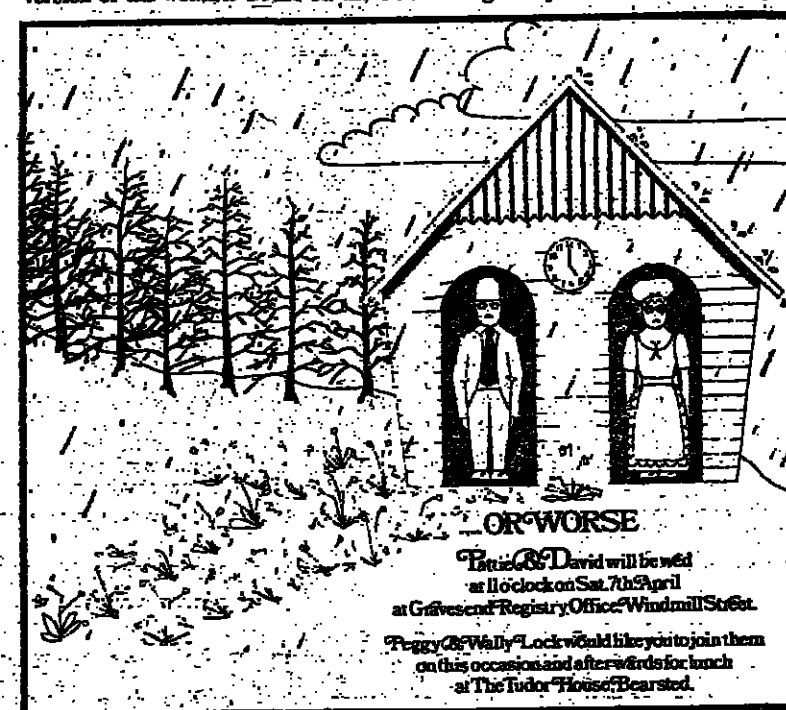
She maintains that too many weddings are "embarrassingly amateur" and that the same principles apply to their organization as to the planning of any large commercial function. She and her partner, John Cooke, who is a catering specialist, will choose reception venues for you, consult on music, suggest suppliers, arrange guards of honour, supervise the going-away arrangements, see the bridesmaids get home safely and even arrange for the gas to be turned on in the new house for the honeymoon couple to return to.

Fees, of course, depend on just how much help you want and how far from London you live. For more details write to Top Drawer, CC Management Consultants, 188 Upminster Road South, Rainham, Essex or telephone Rainham 23396, or 01-321 9368.

Left: Wide troussesaux in mixed, a drift of silk and lace. Sizes 32in to 36in. White, champagne, natural, £133.85, wedding £163.68. From Janet Regeer, 2 Besenham Place, London SW3 and from their branch at 12 New Bond Street, W1, who will do mail order.

Right: Pinstriped cummerbund in silk crepe de chine by Julia for Charles Graham. In white with white or sable lace, or black with black or beige lace. Small, medium and large, £51.75 from Just Jackie, Leicester, Fenner, Manchester, Harrods.

Below: Informal modern wedding invitation has a sunny "For better..." version of the weather house on the front. Designed by David Hart.



## The extravagance of loot

The jewelry section of the fine arts department at Harrods departs this week from its usual tradition of showing Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian jewelry by presenting an exhibition by three modern designers. Two are English, Ellis Palmer and Frances Kirk, and one American, Frances Bendixson.

They were selected by the fine arts buyer, Joanna Harding, at a 1500 exhibition at the Goldsmiths' Hall, because, unlike many "straight modern jewellers," they create highly decorative pieces with a feeling of extravagance.

The qualities which all the pieces have in common are delicacy and a fluidity of line. Frances Kirk works mainly in gold and gemstones and Ellis Palmer sets pearls and diamonds in mixtures of gold and silver and allows part of the silver to oxidize, and take on pretty shades of blue and magenta.

Frances Bendixson's specialities are Edwardian-style chokers and rings made of antique beads and set into the most intricately woven silver wire — like crocheted cobwebs. They manage to be delicate and flamboyant

at the same time — intended for hands that demand to be noticed.

She was trained as an art historian and she uses coloured beads as if she were arranging dewdrops of paint on a canvas. She buys old beads because of their patina and mixes them occasionally with new ones for contrast of texture — amethysts, rose quartz and black pearls, citrine, ivory and moonstones, jet, cornelian and brown coral.

Prices range from £50 for rings and £100-£200 for earrings to £500 for necklaces. She also enjoys creating designs specially to suit clients' own beads, so if you have, perhaps, some broken amber or jet, she will find beads or stones to complement them and set them as you wish. Because of her use of old beads no two pieces are exactly repeatable and you can be sure of a unique piece.

Apart from the work on show at Harrods you can also see pieces by Frances Bendixson at the Electrum Gallery, South Molton Street, London W1 and the Casson Gallery, 73 Marylebone High Street W1. For special commissions telephone 01-752 0520.

Left: Asymmetrical earrings with antique beads of amethyst, rose quartz, black pearl, coral and frosted glass set in silver. Ring of rose quartz, frosted agate, and black pearls. From a selection by Frances Bendixson at the exhibition of modern jewelry in the fine arts department at Harrods.



Yuri Gagarin  
(right) made history  
for Russia two  
decades ago as the  
first cosmonaut.  
Michael Binyon  
explains why the  
space programme  
means so much  
to the Soviet leaders

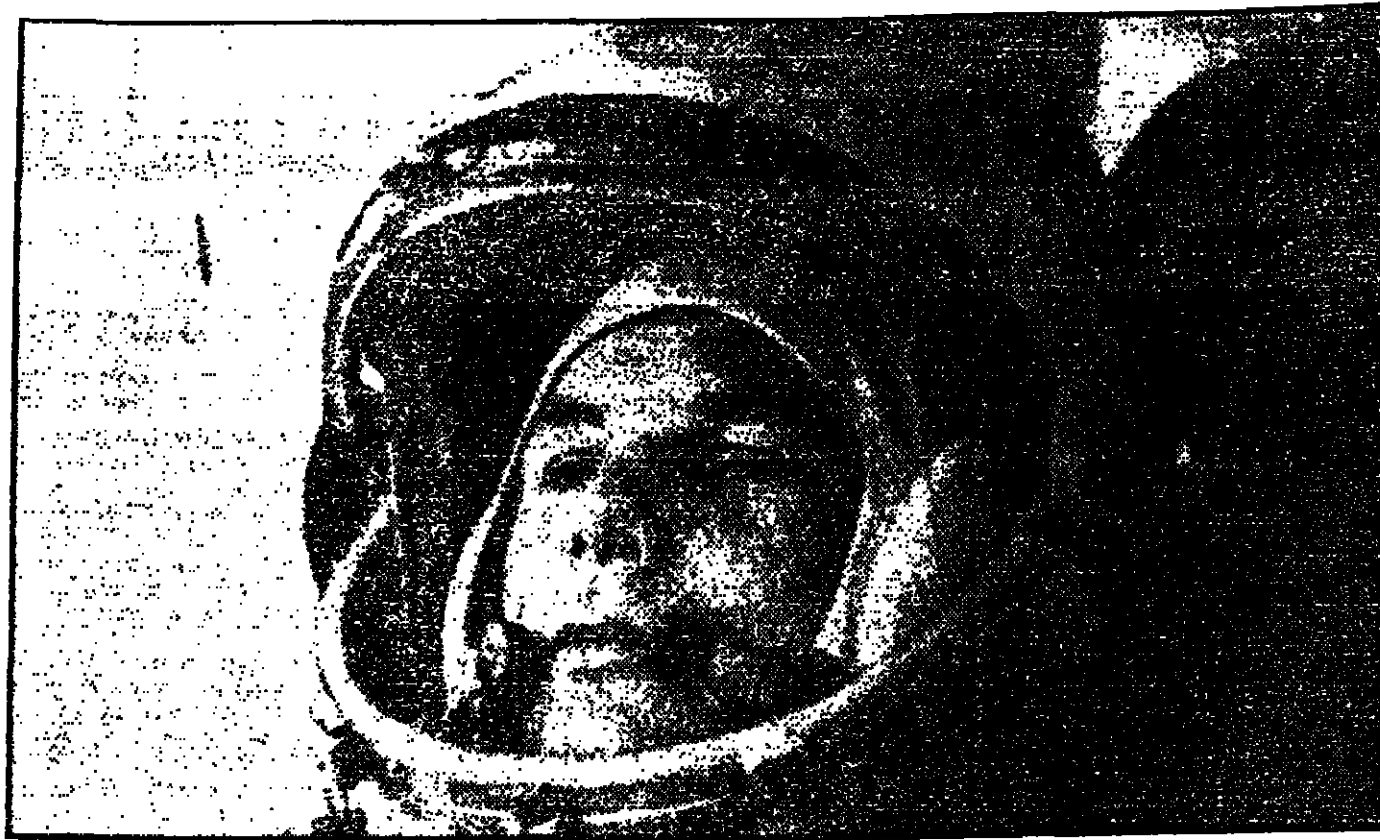
Twenty years ago a young fresh-faced colonel with typically Slav features and an infectious smile was shot into outer space aboard a primitive Soviet spaceship Vostok and went into orbit around the earth. The world gasped in admiration, the Soviet Union bubbled over with pride, and Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, established himself overnight as a living legend.

The space race was on in earnest. The Americans, surprised and humiliated, poured unlimited funds into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, launched a crash programme of testing and research and did not rest until Colonel Neil Armstrong took his first "giant step for mankind" on the moon in 1969.

Since then the Americans have sent other astronauts bumping over the moon's surface in moon buggies, landed automatic miniature laboratories on Mars to look for life in the cold, red dust, and dispatched rockets into the farthest depths of the galaxy.

The Russians meanwhile have plodded on with their own less dramatic missions to Venus, unmanned landings on the moon and lengthy scientific missions in the ageing orbiting laboratory Salyut 6. And as the American space programme struggles with public indifference and a dwindling budget—revived temporarily by the space shuttle programme—the Russians, with inferior equipment, a weaker technical base and a less ambitious scientific programme, have continued to treat space exploration as a national priority.

Soviet rockets blast off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan with predictable regularity. More than half the 103 spacemen who have whirled around the world have



## The immortal spaceman

been Russians, and the Soviet Union is now also ferrying out cosmonauts from allied communist countries, the latest being the 33-year-old son of a Mongolian shepherd. Medals and honours are routinely handed, banner headlines welcome each new launch and every year, on the anniversary of Gagarin's flight on April 12, the Russians celebrate their space programme as "Cosmos Day".

Why do the Russians still regard all this as important? What benefits have their expensive space shots brought them, and why is Yuri Gagarin, whose titanium futuristic statue overlooks one of Moscow's main avenues, still venerated as a national hero?

Part of the gains in scientific knowledge and engineering expertise, Soviet space shots have played an incalculable role in boosting Soviet prestige both at home and abroad. The space programme has been used to project overseas an image of Soviet science in general far beyond that merited by other areas of achievement. It has been used as a demonstration of the party's commitment to "progress" and technical advance. It has even been used as an instrument of foreign policy—

the joint Soviet-American space link-up in 1975 was the symbolic manifestation of the closer Soviet-American political relations and the ushering in of détente that followed the Brezhnev-Nixon summit in 1972. An underlying theme has been the Soviet Union's commitment to peace and the benefit of mankind, which are to be achieved only under the guidance of the Communist Party. At the same time, the Soviet space programme routinely pledges in a formal statement to carry out the assigned tasks, and expresses "warm thanks" to the Communist Party and government leaders for their "high trust". Significantly, a special message was flashed from outer space to the Olympic opening ceremony.

Ten years ago the Soviet leadership identified itself with the space programme's successes in characteristic declaration: "Yuri Gagarin's flight was a triumph of socialism, a brilliant confirmation of Lenin's prediction about the stormy growth of the socialist state." It has been used as a demonstration of the party's commitment to "progress" and technical advance. It has even been used as an instrument of foreign policy—

The message of course is intended especially for citizens at home. It reassures Russians, ever sceptical of official boasting and claims of Soviet achievement, that they can still surprise the world with science, even if they cannot produce the consumer goods at home. Here at last is a field in which the Russians can genuinely compete with the Americans.

Western scientists and engineers have long pointed out that the Soviet space programme in fact does not compete with the American one in technology or innovation. But because of the great secrecy surrounding the programme, many of the details are unknown. It is not even clear who is in overall charge.

Two important figures were Mstislav Keldysh, a former president of the academy, and Sergey Korolev, the chief designer of the space programme until his death in 1966. But western analysts have been unable to determine the roles of other prominent space engineers, their budget or their future priorities.

For the moment the Russians have concentrated on testing the human reaction to prolonged space flight. Their latest space shots, lasting over six months, have shown that given the right

exercise and a carefully balanced regime, there appears to be no reason apart from the psychological difficulties why man could not stay up at least a year in a space laboratory. And the eventual aim appears to be a permanently manned orbiting station, which would be of considerable value in earth observation, experiments such as the manufacture of crystals, semi-conductors and certain alloys, and of course—though not stated—in achieving a military advantage in outer space.

These aims are more modest than the space shuttle, which the Russians have criticized for its military implications. And now the bumpy days of joint programmes with the United States appear to be gone for ever, the Soviet Union sees the space race taking on a new seriousness. For the shaky Soviet economy, the space programme is a costly item. But it has fully justified itself in its political benefits. Before his tragic death in an air accident in 1968, Yuri Gagarin's smile alone must have earned his country more popular good will than all the speeches of Soviet leaders since. And for that he will be remembered with affection and gratitude by his countrymen tomorrow.

Fred Emery

## The new party and friends: it's intermission time

"But the old politics is dying. The battle to decide what the new politics will be like is just beginning. It is possible, just possible," Mrs Shirley Williams somewhat tentatively concludes her new book, "that it will be a politics for people."

Like much that the Social Democrats say, all parties could agree with that. An effort to involve more people, serve the people more, is what democratic politicians of all colours keep telling themselves they are about, whatever the quality of their achievement. Perhaps only the Labour leadership clings to the old formulas of corporatism, with a government by consensus with the union leaders. Everyone else is more restive. It is Sir Tony Benn's rhetorical strength, in his increasing challenge to the trade union bloc that he proclaims the will to "extend democracy"—even if it turns out to mean all power to the activist.

It is one of the presumptions of the Conservative Government to be restoring income and decision-making to the people—even if

their delivery is wanting. Indeed, it is one of the virtues of some in the present Cabinet that Social Democrats and Liberals could really run off with the prize if they could invent a way to make participation—perish the phrase, industrial democracy—work at work.

It is not clear, especially in a recession, that there is widespread fervour for this around the country. Where countries have tried involvement, or codetermination, as Mrs Williams suggests, it usually excites only a minority who in turn become an elite and so breed a new divisiveness. However, this does not mean that we who have not tried it should accept that we cannot make it work. It is interesting that senior Tories are worried. It would be a good bet that whatever pre-election package they tried to concoct with the economy in such straits will include a new effort in involving the workforce in the running of the firm. That thrust is likely to have greater force than any further efforts to constrict trade unions by law. The Social Democrats certainly intend being the pacemakers. Dr

David Owen's book, *Face the Future*, has far more detail than Mrs Williams'. But the Social Democrats' stated principle of deciding things by one member one vote, is intended to be the model for much that would follow. Although they promise stability in central government, they promise a virtual revolution by devolution. In business, and local government, there might be decentralizing participation that would turn the country into a federation of regions in all but name. The policy, of course, remains to be decided.

And before we get there, there is the matter of getting elected under the old politics. This last week has confirmed that even with the Social Democrats and Liberals the battle is going to be among themselves before they get to their opponents.

No one should be surprised. There has been an inherent tension and contradiction between Mr David Steel's wish for an effective coalition from the start and the majority Social Democrats' wish for one at the end, as it were.

The Liberal leader preferred forging his alliance before the new party had set in its mould. But for the Social Democrats the heat and excitement of the forging heighten the need for a distinct and separate image, different from anything seen in the old politics.

If no surprises, there are inevitable disappointments. Both the Liberal and Social Democrat leaders had, it seemed, intended by this weekend to have announced their joint negotiating committee. Mr Steel talks about a timetable for an agreement to be reached in time to put his to his party conference in the autumn. But he is most concerned with momentum and wanted to keep the ball rolling, especially ahead of next month's local elections. He seems to have thought he had tied down after his meeting with Social Democrats during the Königsplatz conference in Germany last weekend. So, it seems, did Mrs Williams.

But other MPs and former MPs on the Social Democrats' standing committee could not understand the rush. They resented the pressure

from the Liberals. Did they not now have their own momentum to think of? Some thought it would upstage their impressive recruiting figures to be seen rushing around, as one put it, holding hands and kissing in public with the Liberals.

Of course, with the ultimate strategy that they must not fight each other. But the majority wanted all talk of agreement with the Liberals to come slowly. Ideally, in one view, such agreement ought to come only when there was a proper Social Democratic Party to participate in the decision, which meant next year at the earliest. Several former Labour MPs wanted more time to get used to the idea of even an arm's length relationship with the Liberals, having fought them all their careers. So there will now be an intermission. How long, is none too clear. Relationships between Liberals and Social Democrats which have been uneven, ranging from cordiality through prickliness to outright scorn will now have time to deteriorate again, as well as improve.

It has been Mr Steel's thesis that the sooner they get started on impressing the electorate the better. The Liberals know what feels like to be Sisyphus repeatedly rolling their stone up the hill of the election system. Confirmation that it is getting worse, not better—whatever the glittering opinion polls says—came again last week in a research paper to the Political Studies Association conference at the University of Hull, by Mr Michael Streed and Mr John Corbridge. On present trends, and with boundary changes likely to help the Conservatives, they foresee a fall in the number of marginal seats. They also predict a greater likelihood of "hung parliaments". But, and here is the greatest warning to the Social Democrats, they speak of the danger of having the vote spread even more evenly all round the country than is the current Liberal support.

Such is the concentration—north versus south, town versus country—of Labour and Conservative strength, they note that unless the

combined Liberal and Social Democratic vote were well over 30 per cent the end result might be to increase the disadvantage hitherto suffered by nationwide third parties. In other words, Mr Ford's wishful prediction that the SDP might end up with not a single seat might come true.

Nor should the would-be allies comfort themselves with the thought of being decision makers in a hung parliament. There remains another possibility of coalition with which the major parties, if it came to it, could defy the interlopers: that is a grand coalition between Conservatives and Labour. Preposterous now, perhaps, but a new form of old politics not to be totally excluded from calculations.

Shirley Williams's book, *Politics for People* (Allen Lane, hardback, £8.50; Penguin, paperback, £2.50) will be the subject of an article by Ian Bradley on Monday.

Letter from Hongkong

## Life with the madding crowd

The Anglo-Chinese banker cased down at the scurrying centre of Hongkong, mercifully reduced to near silence by the double-glazing, from his well-padded office on the 25th floor. "People always ask if China will take the place back when the lease expires in 1997," he said. "Personally, I sometimes wonder if they would want it back."

He had a point. Hongkong is best seen from a distance—from the belly-bottomed old Star Ferry that plies across the harbour, where it has all the neatness of a high-rise architect's display case. Or from the lush woods and even lusher real estate of the Peak rising above it, where you can watch the sun setting over the South China Sea and fancy that the towering acreage of glass and concrete is your own private toyland.

At closer quarters it is a less fragrant proposition: energizing but also exhausting. The story is told of the Scotland Yard officer who arrived to head the local CID, saluted forth on his first morning for a gentle constitutional and was promptly submerged in the human tide. They had to fly him home the following week. It is odd, though, to find a place that affects the claustrophobia as much as the agoraphobia.

Your liking for Hongkong will depend on the constitution of your adrenal gland but you could run out of adrenalin before you describe it. In a setting where generations of cultural change are telescoped into a few years, "insecure" is probably the most accurate. Refugees from rural China are whisked

out of their shanty-town squallor and rehoused in the clouds, 35 sq ft apiece. They do not mind, say the authorities: the Chinese are naturally gregarious and besides, what are the alternatives to high-rise living where space costs more than £2,000 a sq ft?

But the planter speaking will tell you that with satiating and child abuse, both most un-Chinese, are on the increase, that the extended family is breaking up, that traditional politenesses are vanishing in the pursuit of money.

"Everything is for money," laments one social worker. "We are so ill-mannered. Our values have gone haywire." The tourist association has started a courtesy scheme: the Japanese, it seems, are the chief victims.

It is hardly surprising in a city where impermanence is manifest. There is more construction work in Hongkong, say the experts, than the whole of Britain, and listening to the din of pile-driver and jackhammer you can believe it. The place is like an immense organism, continuously self-renewing, sprouting new limbs for old, and scant regard is paid to architectural distinction if it is less than 10 storeys high. The splendid old Post Office has gone; the Hongkong Club and the Marine Offices, both handsome in their own way and serving to alleviate the unending rectangularity, will follow suit. Fortunately Flagstaff House, pure white and porticoed and the traditional residence of the British GOC, is to be retained as a museum.

Sadly, many of the sky-

scrappers seem to exude an anti-septic aura at street level, driving away the reeking hawkers who crowd Hongkong's entire promiscuity. There are 45,000 of them, a third unemployed, and it is typical of the colony's expanding welfare-state paternalism that they are eventually to be surveyed, reorganized and locked away in multi-storey purpose-built markets. They set in people's way, say the politicians.

The politicians, however, do not get in the people's way. Despite new Government plans for more local democracy, last month's elections produced the worst turnout for years. The outburst of apathy apparently extended to the young and was explained in the same way as the absence of vandalism and graffiti—everyone was too busy making money.

People come to Hongkong to escape politics, to avoid the Peking-Taiwan polarity, the argument runs, and anyway there is the ancient Chinese view of bureaucrats—"all crows are black." The colony is nevertheless getting on boomily with mainland China, resuming its historical role as an entrepot. Re-exports to China more than trebled last year: investment was up fivefold. For many local capitalists, it is a matter of going business with their childhood villages, their relatives.

But westernization and "putting on" remain the driving force. Like the insect colony where a chemical message permeates almost instantly thanks to innumerable interactions, Hongkong is preternaturally fashion-conscious, and the "eye-eyes" as the ille-

gal immigrants are known phonetically, who made it from China before last year's clampdown now stalk about in track suits and sneakers emblazoned with makers' names. Sport is the mode, chiming well with the Chinese preoccupation with bodily health and fitness. Every morning, 30,000 shadow-box on the rooftops.

Many of Hongkong's charms should be sampled soon, before they are demolished. Like Cat Street and its environs, home of fake antiques, poached ivory, fleamarkets and snake shops, but now the subject of urban renewal. Or the Tiger Balm gardens, where Mr Aw Bun Haw, of Haw Par fame, commemorated the all-purpose cure for lumbago, gout and scorpion bite that made him a millionaire and did so in a style horribly reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch. Its future, too, appears limited.

Or there is Ocean Park, built in typically cavalier fashion on a prominent headland, where you can view the biggest and probably the most beautiful aquarium in the world: an exquisite simulation of a coral reef inhabited by countless small fish like liquorice all-sorts, patrolled by leopard sharks and rays and lit with the same secret magic as Wan Chai or Tsim Sha Tsui, chief haunt of the city's strollers and pleasure-seekers at night. It reminds one, oddly, of Hongkong itself—and since it was built only four years ago, it has a bit of time to run yet.

David Nicholson-Lord

Sportsworld

## These boots were made for trotting

Dovedale will be busily pretty at Easter. This spectacular topographic jungle, worn to a brownish green by millions of booted feet, owed its original fame to Charles Cotton and Isaac Walton. George Eliot gave the place fictional embellishment. The intimate little gorge has since assumed a starring role in the inanimate cast of Britain's first national park: the Peak District, designated 30 years ago.

The only way to explore Dovedale—or, for that matter, any of the most magical chunks of the Peak District—is on foot. Walking is the first and last thing we do in the way of conventional exercise and it acquires a special importance in middle age, when physical ambitions are born from a marriage of convenience between reason and romanticism. Reason insists that declining energies should be concentrated on the practicable as distinct from the ideal. Romanticism, uneasily compatible, tempts us to rekindle old fires and let the sparks fly where they will.

The Peak District is just the place for all that: the walking, and the intellectual, and the promise. It is more accessible than the Lake District and vies with it as England's most popular terrain for ramblers, especially the hardy kind who regard mucky boots as the badge of a good day. The breed proudly accept the generic label of bog-trotters: a term coined to describe those Irish tramps renowned for fancy footwork when nipping from tussock to tussock.

The modern descendants of these light-footed layabouts seek refreshment for the soul and exercise for the body on the high, lonely, often trackless wastes of Kinder Scout, Bleaklow, and a few more places represented by dark brown patches on the Ordnance

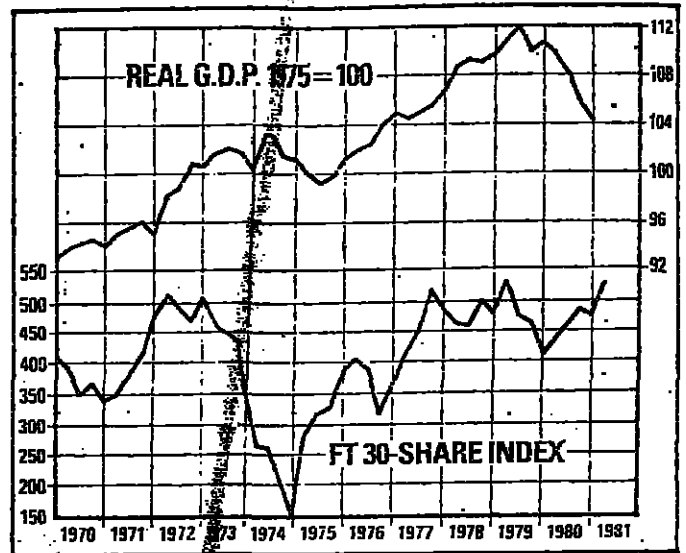
Survey map. The Pennine Way put the stamp of official tolerance on their eccentricity, but the genuine bog-trotter remains disdainful about any paths with even a hint of official channels. He prefers to make his own way across the wild moorland but, in case the weather turns nasty, takes the precaution of dressing for trouble and packing a compass.

Those who prefer more charming, less strenuous challenges, head for Dovedale and other limestone dales. But the excitement lies in bog-trotting or climbing among the great heights. Feet were made for walking and hands were added for the convenience of a private gymnasium. Whenever I see the friendly bulk of Birchen Edge etched against the skyline north of Chatsworth, the sight revives memories of a muscular chimney sweep who, in emergency, had clambered over rooftops to rescue his brush. We scrambled up modest pitches and then propped our backs against that honest granite, stretched our legs in the heather and let the birds sing: thus while we rested tired limbs and examined the contents of flasks and sandwich boxes.

That chapter is closed. Middle age changes the rules, especially after one fall and many submissions. But given the soundless, warm parks, and a decent pair of boots, there is still much bog-trotting to be done: and where is the harm in an occasional scramble up the sort of rock that begs for the carefully adhesive company of a man who remembers his dependents and does not dare fall?

Even if your knees do not take the strain as well as they once did, there is much fun to be had from an excursion to Kinder Downfall—an infrequently astonishing spectacle in that, when there is a good flow of water and a strong wind from the right quarter, the Downfall is blown upwards (yes upwards) like steam from a giant kettle. It really is time, now that Easter is coming and the sun is rising, to have another look at Kinder—especially on that arduously rewarding round walk from Edale to Hope.

It is time, too, for another look at the view from Derwent Edge or Win Hill over the drowned, well-remembered villages of Derwent and Ash-ton. At the secluded, unspectacular Dale and its example of the geological jokes erosion can play. At the Wye valley between Buxton and Ashford



## As shares leap, is recovery really round the corner?

An improved outlook for profits does not mean that the total output of the economy will start rising too

While the economists sign letters predicting economic gloom, the Stock Exchange has been living through a boom. The Financial Times 30-share Index of leading industrial companies went up by 1.5 points to close at 551.3 yesterday only 7.3 points below its record high. The All-Shares index is actually at a new record level.

Who is right, the stock market optimists who expect the worst is over or the economic pessimists who warn of continuing stagnation? Probably both are. The latest round of increases in share prices have been heavily influenced by technical factors, most notably by the takeover fever which is beginning to affect some of the big names which play a prominent part in trading.

But more fundamentally, the stock market expects an improvement over the next year in the life blood of company performance, the profit figures which measure companies' success. Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew expect that the profits of industrial companies could rise by 30 per cent next year. That is enough to put a smile on the face of any of the institutional buyers who now account for over two thirds of the equity market.

But an improved outlook for profits does not mean that the total output of the economy will start rising as well. One of the reasons why profits over the next 18 months should start moving ahead is that companies have cut back their workforces, bearing heavy redundancy costs in 1980 in order to make savings. That change will do little to boost output in the year ahead.

What the stock market is predicting is that the pattern of the past two years, when the living standards of workers got worse, and the state of companies has declined to perilous depths, may be about to reverse itself. But that does not mean that the total level of output will go up significantly.

Yet, as the chart shows, the share index has always in the past gone up ahead of any economic recovery. But look closer

and you can see that the share index is, if anything, too sensitive an indicator. In late 1979 it predicted a slump that never really happened. In 1977 and 1978 it bounced up and down at a time when the economy was still moving steadily forwards.

Movements in the price of shares are included in the Central Statistical Office's longer leading indicators, which are designed to tell us what will happen to the economy about 15 months ahead.

Yet the Stock Exchange went on rising right up to the spring of 1979, the very moment when the economy began to turn down. This shows just how great the variations can be in the link between the stock market and activity in the rest of the economy.

Movements in share prices over the past 18 months could suggest that the economy has touched bottom about now, but they would also be consistent with any upturn being delayed until much later in the year or even 1982. Most economic forecasters were predicting a slow recovery in output in 1981, but have now put that off until 1982. Even when it arrives, they expect the growth in output to be slow and easily blown off course.

One final sign of the inflationary times in which we live puts the performance of shares over the past 10 years in perspective. If the FT index had kept pace with inflation since 1970, it would have closed last night not at 551.3 but at 1600.

David Blake  
Economics Editor





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## THE MEMBER FOR THE MAZE

The art of winning elections in Fermanagh and South Tyrone is not to split the vote. It is to constituency in which the unionist, protestant and nationalist, catholic types of Ulstermen are fairly evenly poised, with a natural advantage to the latter of about 5,000 electors out of about 70,000. If there is a candidate with a clear run on each side, what happens next depends on (a) differential apathy and (b) the acceptability of the candidate as representatives of their respective tribes.

On this occasion there was one candidate on each side of the divide: on the Unionist side because Mr Paisley dared not test his strength there, and on the nationalist side because the SDLP the main advocates of a constitutional approach to Irish unity, allowed itself to be outmanoeuvred at the nomination stage. It pays a heavy penalty for that default, and so does the whole province. Political apathy has been squeezed out of that part of Ulster by a relentless campaign of hit-and-run murders from across the border and by reawakened nationalist expectations after the Thatcher-Haughhey talks. The result of the election would therefore turn on the candidates' acceptability to their own natural supporters. Cross voting is unknown, and when the non-sectarian Alliance Party put in an appearance in 1979 it got 17 per cent of the vote.

Mr Harry West has none of the attractions of youth and novelty, but he was a safe acceptor for the unionist vote. Mr Robert Sands looked a more doubtful runner: a prominent Provisional IRA man, sentenced to 14 years for firearms offences, 40 days into a fast to death at the Maze prison. Which would be decisive, repugnance to an organization of systematic political murder, or sympathy for a young patriot immolating himself in the cause of Ireland's

ancient quarrel with England? We know the answer.

It is a brilliant propaganda coup for the Provisional IRA. It augments their H-block protest as never before. More than that, the value they will put on the face of it is that the nationalist electors of Ireland do not merely back the Provisionals in their heart of hearts but, given the chance, come out en masse to vote for them. It is a spurious claim, since all they asked for from the voters was endorsement of the demand for political status for IRA prisoners in support for Mr Sands's self-sacrifice. It also grossly oversimplifies the states of mind of nationalists in that border country when presented with the choice of endorsing the IRA or voting for a unionist. To deny the test to the other side must have been for many the chief consideration.

But no qualification or distinction however valid is going to rot the Provisionals of the propaganda value of their victory — the United States especially and in the Republic — or diminish its impact in the province on a humiliated SDLP and aroused unionist community.

Mr Sands's political handlers say, contrary to what they say before, that he will not resign the seat before his death from starvation, if it comes to that. The House of Commons would move at once, that is before the Easter recess, to unseat him. That would be an entirely proper thing to do since he is precluded from attending the House for the duration of this parliament. It is also better that if he encompasses his own death, those who will exploit it should be denied whatever extra advantage they might get out of his formally representing a parliamentary constituency at the time.

For the Government two problems, one of them immedi-

ate, are intensified. The present hunger strike in the Maze is made harder to manage. It can no longer be assumed that the Provisional prisoners' demand for political status and the means they choose for enforcing it do not engage the emotions of the greater part of the nationalist community in Ulster. Even so, to yield to the demand would be fatal to the Government's authority. The best it can do is to repeat, with more finesse this time and in less favourable circumstances, the procedure by which it weathered the same storm before Christmas: to offer concessions on the particulars of the prison regime without conceding any matter of principle.

Looking a bit farther ahead, the Government must surely now conclude (although it may wish to wait next month's local elections in the province before saying so) that the people of Northern Ireland are so far polarized as to render useless any early revival of the attempt to introduce provincial institutions acceptable to the leaders of both communities. The IRA by its sustained killing and skillful manipulation of its prisoners' protest and Mr Ian Paisley by his thunderous invocation of the ghost of Sir Edward Carson have between them seen to that. Meanwhile salvation through exploratory collaboration with Mr Haughhey is a very long way off, if it is there at all.

There is no early alternative to administration of the province within the United Kingdom in the interests of all its people indifferently. The duty could be more confidently fulfilled if the Government were to give more thought to normalizing the administrative and legislative arrangements, and less sign of wishfully thinking that there is some internal or external "solution" for disposing of the problem if only we all looked hard enough.

## TO COMMAND THE EARTH ORBIT

The technical difficulties that have already caused America's new shuttle-orbiter spacecraft to be three years behind schedule were still at work yesterday nine minutes before the launch was cancelled at Cape Canaveral. The last space spectacular in the Apollo series of manned spaceflights was six years ago, when the first and only collaborative Soviet-American venture was achieved with the link up of an Apollo-Soyuz spacecraft. Three years earlier the American Government had decided in favour of a different type of space transporter capable of ferrying people between earth and space in a vehicle that combined the features of an aeroplane and a spacecraft. Its most important characteristics were an ability to return to earth by landing on an extended aircraft runway, and to be overhauled and reused as many as 50 times. The first of the shuttle-orbiter family the Columbia, was launched in space last autumn more than two years late. Further technical setbacks delayed the next flight until this month.

Yet the concept of the space shuttle is a bold one on which the United States has its hopes of recovering the lead it held over the Soviet Union in the sixties, with its manned space programme. The construction of a fleet of vehicles to be

floated repeatedly between earth and space was regarded a decade ago as a fairly modest technological advance over the rockets and space capsules which had taken astronauts to the moon. Experience has proved otherwise: and the miscalculation is reflected in the costs that have risen from an estimated \$5,000 million to nearly \$10,000 million. Even so, a successful shuttle flight tomorrow should be the first of a series of journeys over the next 15 years, which will mark a new era of military, commercial and scientific use of space. It will then have become something of a commonplace, and technical misjudgment about how long it would take to produce the new type of high pressure rocket motor, or to manufacture the 35,000 tiles forming the heat shield will all have been forgiven and forgotten.

But it is the commitment of the United States Department of Defence to this programme which has kept the shuttle alive. Wee it not for its importance to defence, as a vehicle to collect reconnaissance, to position satellites and to monitor possible future Salt agreements, the enterprise would have already foundered in Congress on account of its cost. As it is, the size of the original fleet of spacecraft has been cut back as part of the overall contraction of the aerospace budget. It is easier now to see, with hindsight, that

while the Russians were pursuing a single-minded aim to build operational space platforms in earth orbit, the American approach to manned flight, which landed the Apollo crews on the moon, may have been more visionary, but was also less useful for military purposes. There may be considerable scientific and commercial potential in shuttle flights, but it will be military plans which dominate the next phase, and as far as the United States Defence Department is concerned, earth orbit is about to become another theatre for routine operations.

There has been no secret about the matter, since the topic has been emphasized repeatedly in Congress. This has not gone unnoticed in Moscow, where the Soviet leaders have protested against the development of the American space shuttle, and in the last round of abortive Salt II negotiations argued that its development was an act of provocation. Since the characteristics of the spaceplane as a giant cargo carrier, capable of accommodating single objects up to thirty tons and placing them in orbit, have been widely publicized, the Soviet reaction may be understandable. Having gained command of the earth orbit with the remarkable Salyut space stations the Soviet Union is now about to lose its advantage; and it would rather not do so.

## NO PLACES FOR FACES

More loyal heart beats in Britain than that of Mr Michael Leaver, MP. When the huzzas are used and caps are flung into the air, his backbencher's cloth cap is as high as any. Nor does he like to see others baffled in expressing their own loyalty. The textile workers of Oldham West, rears swelling with sentiments of his own, want to give shape to their feelings by manufacturing T-shirts printed with portraits of the Prince of Wales and ady Diana Spencer. But the Lord Chamberlain has announced that this particular display of loyalty would not be welcomed by the palace. Blow the palace, says loyalty, are dramatic royalists here who is Prince Charles to have references about the way we wish him well? Like an Ulsterman adding new dimensions to the concept of loyal dissent, Mr Leaver has written to incite Her Majesty's Secretary of State for industry to join his rebellion and "tear the textile workers to ignore the royal prohibition. He is specially concerned that the side in portrait T-shirts may ass from the lean and hungry Oldham to the prosperous and opportunistic textile workers of Aikman."

If the original prohibition had been couched in the form of a request rather than a prohibition, it might never have been any fuss. Yet the Lord Chamberlain's announcement was merely the regular form at such moments. It has in essence concessionary, not restrictive. At other times the palace is quietly and tentatively active to prevent unauthorized use of royal titles and insignia, which are the copy-right of the Queen. The royal arms are even protected by international treaty from misuses by registration as trademarks by companies abroad. Since no one has a copyright in his own face, there is no legal basis for a ban on portrait T-shirts. But the requests behind the scenes are as effective in the one case as in the other, and manufacturers and retailers who value their respectability will normally comply. But manufacturers and retailers of T-shirts do not set much store by this kind of respectability.

The published regulations bear signs of the same deep and inventive contemplation of possible improprieties that used to mark the Lord Chamberlain's rulings when he was censor of stage drama. They do not overly

shape the thought that breasts swelling with whatever sentiments should not have as their sole covering the image of the happy pair. But textiles generally are seen to create risks of indignities. Faces are allowed only on headscarves and tea-towels, for reasons having more to do with custom than logic.

A hundred years ago it was all far more lax. Advertisers used the royal insignia and even pictures of the Queen herself to suggest that their wares enjoyed permission to enter the USSR, were wearing, their friends are appealing to the West to protest against this brutal violation of human rights. Yours faithfully, RITA EKER, RITA EKER, Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, 148 Granville Road, NW2, April 2.

## Priorities in the national investment programme

From Mr Edward du Cann, MP for Taunton (Conservative). Sir, The House of Commons Treasury Select Committee did not only urge in its latest report that the decline in capital spending relative to current spending should be halted. The committee recommended that this trend should be reversed and that Government should raise significantly the proportion of public investment within the total of public expenditure from its present low level. An outstanding feature of our economy in recent years has been the decline in public-sector capital expenditure, both absolutely in volume terms and as a share of total public expenditure. The figures and the percentages are striking indeed. Fixed capital expenditure (at 1980 survey prices) amounted to £13,800m in 1975-76 and £9,800m in 1980-81. As a percentage of total expenditure these sums represent 19.4 per cent and 12.5 per cent respectively. The decline is forecast to continue, albeit on a more modest scale, into 1981-82.

The Government White Paper on public expenditure, which was debated in the House of Commons yesterday (April 9) lays emphasis in paragraph 22 on the need for services in public spending. This good intention needs to be built upon as a matter of urgency.

Readers of The Times will no doubt have been shocked by your correspondent, Mr. Hennessy's account (April 7) of the evidence given to the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee last Monday by the Comptroller and Auditor General, which indicated that the processes of internal audit in the government service are regarded as a mere "checkbox exercise". Sir Derek Rayner, working on a part-time basis and with a skeleton staff, has been tireless and effective in discovering economies to be made within the government service—without loss of efficiency or service to the public. It is disappointing that Britain's civil servants, now clamouring for increased remuneration, apparently put efficiency and economy so low in their scale of priorities.

The reality is that for many years we have been apallingly wasteful for the way in which public money is spent. One example will suffice. Social service payments now account for some £27bn per annum, more than a quarter of the total budget. It is well known that our system of transfer payments is grossly inefficient. The United Kingdom is among the most costly, the most complex and the most difficult to understand of any in the Western world.

Furthermore, we cannot ever be certain that the maximum help is going to those in greatest need. I remember reporting to the House of Commons as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee a few years ago the considered opinion of the committee that the system was too complicated for many of the clerks in the Department of Health and Social Security to be able to understand properly and explain to their customers. The Public Accounts Committee, year after year, report after report, gives other examples.

Thus there is, without any doubt, a massive scope for spending the taxpayers' money better, for ensuring better value for money, for insisting that (welfare apart) the Government is a notable force as a promoter of efficiency in the state services, and a moderniser, and not least, in the nationalized industries.

There may well be, as your leading article (April 10) rightly im-

plies, scope for examining new methods of financing the nationalized industries (a matter which the Treasury and Civil Service Committee is shortly to inquire into). It is gratifying that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has undertaken to consider the possibility of giving a greater emphasis to capital expenditure with the committee in the immediate future.

However, the main point—the need to build a high road to national recovery—cannot be over-emphasized. Investment is a cost like any other. But it is a cost which we should afford ahead of administration. New technology, new plant, new methods and a modern infrastructure are the essential foundations for economic prosperity. Finance is undoubtedly available at home and abroad for worthwhile projects and on a large scale.

The list of needs is long—the electrification of the railways, the Severn barrage, the development of nuclear power, are only a few of the thousands of examples one could give. All that is required is imagination and a determination to marry the needs to the facilities.

No other country in the European Community is failing to renew its capital assets. The annual level of total investment in the Community has increased in real terms by 12 per cent per annum since 1975. Why should we, in our folly, fall behind our competitors? In so doing we are destroying our future prospects.

If the Treasury and Civil Service Committee has given a new emphasis to this debate about the need, which in turn thanks to your support leads to action being taken, then this fact alone will have justified its existence and given some new hope to our sorely pressed people. I do not accept, however, that the Government should be lower living standards should be their normal expectation. Yours faithfully, E. DU CANN, House of Commons, SW1.

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors.

Sir, What is it about the words "capital investment" and "infrastructure" that causes the immediate suspension of the critical faculties among economic commentators and those responsible for leading articles in The Times (April 10)?

Proposals for public works programmes or the further subsidization of capital spending by nationalized industries appeal in that they present demonstrable short-term employment gains; are welcomed by some businessmen perplexed by the failure of the public sector to observe a distinction between capital and revenue spending which is to them fundamental; and are directed toward improvements in Britain's infrastructure. Few are willing to argue that this does not stand in need of improvement.

Yet infrastructural failings are of minimal economic significance by comparison with the damage inflicted upon businesses by high interest rates and the continuing high levels of business and personal taxation. These phenomena, and the Treasury's present desperate search for new sources of revenue, can be traced straight back to the overspending of the public sector, capital and revenue alike.

The uncompetitiveness, restrictive practices, monopoly powers and trades union domination which afflict so many nationalized industries will not be rectified by further major "investment" programmes. They are, on the contrary, likely to postpone any serious attempt to tackle these problems.

## Holbein painting enigma

From Mr John Rowlands. Sir, May I refer to Mr John Fletcher's letter to you of March 28 occasioned by the acquisition by the National Gallery of Scotland of Holbein's splendid religious painting of "The Old and the New Law". While naturally, as a layman, I cannot question the scientific basis of his analysis of the tree rings of the wood on which Holbein painted this work, his application of these findings to the question of the date of the painting does seem rather incautious.

This analysis, as I understand it, can, if the wood furnishes enough evidence, give us the "felling date" of the tree, from which one can assume approximately the date after which an artist could have painted on the panel. Unfortunately Mr Fletcher's assumptions that have led him to propose that the painting was executed by Holbein in 1526 in Antwerp (en route from Basel to England) are undermined by the evidence.

In its iconography the painting is Holbein's interpretation of a new religious subject, evidently devised by Lucas Cranach to illustrate Luther's Pauline doctrine of justification by Faith with its antithesis to Judgment, and grace (Grace) which leads to Redemption through Jesus Christ. Extant paintings of this subject from Cranach's workshop date from 1529 onwards, and Cranach also produced a woodcut

In reality, the Government lacks the fiscal room to manoeuvre even if it were considered imperative for other reasons to take new steps in public works programmes, nor ought it to extend the shadowy but growing area of public finance for which it stands as the ultimate guarantor. It will only retain the capability to take spending options to which elements of risk or unquantifiable gain attach if its entire economic programme is underwritten by a substantial new inflow of revenue.

Revenue income of the scale required can only be achieved by raising the targets for the realization of public-sector assets themselves (from around £100m per annum to £200m in each of the remaining years of the present Parliament).

The techniques to attain these results are varied. They include further measures of privatization; the increased use of sale and lease-back of public-sector fixed assets; employing convertible debentures secured on assets to raise money in the market whilst providing for automatic privatization by conversion into shares when the conditions are ripe; the sale of equity shares; and the straightforward sale to the private sector of viable sections of nationalized enterprises.

Not only should these measures guarantee higher investment levels unaccompanied by threats to the public-sector borrowing requirement, but they will also avoid the demonstrated incapacity of governments to pick "winners". As Sir Keith Joseph pointed out, it is currently the losers who pick ministers.

It is not insignificant that, as the siren voices of the capital spenders gain in volume, the holdiness of nationalized industry chairmen in demanding a halt to the privatization programme central to the Government's election commitments increases. Yours truly, WALTER GOLDSMITH, Director General, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1, April 10.

From Mr B. Barker. Sir, The Comptroller and Auditor General has drawn attention to the lack of appreciation in the Civil Service of the potential benefits of an efficient, modern internal audit service.

Sir John Herbecq, at the Civil Service Department, has said that the problem is not so much lack of numbers but lack of training and professionalism. In certain departments of state, notably the Ministry of Defence, there is a clear and welcome movement in the direction of professionalizing staff.

I suggest that a quick, practical and inexpensive contribution to the solution of the internal audit problem in the Civil Service would be to put selected executive officers and all new principals or assistant principals through the professional examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. These men and women could then be seconded to internal audit as part of their career development.

The courses, colleges, examinations and everything required are readily available without additional charge to the public purse. All that is lacking is a sufficient will to get the right people qualified and put to work.

B. BARKER, Secretary and Chief Executive, The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, 16 Park Crescent, W1, April 9.

at about the same date for dissemination to a wider public. Stylistically the painting is, in my view, more likely to have been executed in the period c1532 to c1535 rather than earlier. But the fact that it is a Lutheran picture, and that it is a religious picture, included it from being painted for someone in England during the artist's first visit here, 1526-1528.

For at that time the religious situation in court circles was evidently more fluid than Mr Fletcher assumes. There were powerful individuals at the court who were toying with ideas of reform. For instance, Sir Henry Guildford, Controller of the Household and Master of the Revels, an important courtier, had contacts with William Tyndale and Guildford was an early English patron of Holbein whose majestic portrait, now at Windsor Castle, he painted in 1527.

Despite the strong episcopal opposition, the supporters at court of reform gradually increased their influence, and after the fall of Wolsey on October 9, 1529, they came out into the open. The leaders were the Gospel-oriented Anne Boleyn and the rising Thomas Cromwell. So it would, in my view, have been quite possible for a powerful courtier to have ordered the painting during Holbein's first stay and even more likely both on stylistic and historical grounds, during the first part of his second stay in England. Yours faithfully, JOHN ROWLANDS, 21 St Paul's Place, NW1, April 7.

## Aspect of Beverley Minister

From Mrs Rosalind Hawkes. Sir, Lord Kenner and Alec Clifton-Taylor have both written (March 23 and 26) objecting to the proposed housing cooperative scheme at the south-east end of Beverley Minister. I write as someone keenly interested both in the suitable preservation of our architectural heritage and in the continuation of urban communities in a sympathetic environment.

The two-storey houses planned at Beverley adjoin a nineteenth-century street which is being rehabilitated by the cooperative architects, York University Design Unit, who have a good record for small, sensitively designed housing schemes. The houses are to take up a small part only of the pre-

sent open space, are few in number and are intended to make the housing cooperative into an economically workable size. Only the lowest part of the south-east end of Beverley Minister will be obscured from the distant south-east view; from the true south the view will be almost clear.

The project was an exciting challenge to provide a much-needed extra housing in a declining though still vigorous community, and to complement the nearby outstanding Gothic building without ruining the modern open view from the very positive visual and social advantages of the scheme were publicly commended. Yours faithfully, ROSALIND HAWKES, 36 St Paul's Square, York, April 5.

## The other face of national service

From Mr David K. Ashworth. Sir, I read with interest that Sir Hugh Fraser (article April 9) believes that the reintroduction of national service would instil in the youth of the country "a new personal sense of purpose, heroism and national involvement". That the treatment worked in the case of Sir Hugh is clear; he has become a politician. If this were the general effect, perhaps we should be sceptical of the virtues of the policy.

It seems irrational for Sir Hugh to seek to solve social and economic problems by means of military measures. Indeed, he admits that the "objectives would be largely civil". I can hardly suppose that the military are very revealing of the idea of being granted "thousands of millions" of pounds, not to spend on military needs, but to train young people without any sort of military commitment or suitability to the military life, for "largely civil" reasons.

In view of the vast cost in time and resources, they must feel that the real defensive function of the Armed Forces was being ignored, and their own contribution to the national life, for "largely civil" reasons.

Sir Hugh's comments about the role of the trade unions in his plans to use recruits to clean up our towns and cities are revealing in respect that looking behind talk of "demanding" (from the unions) a full acceptance of inescapable realities, and an "improved infrastructure" is something rather sinister. I cannot believe that the military establishment, whatever the political views of those who compose it, regard it as any part of their task to be a weapon in the fight against the power of the trade unions.

The idea of sprays of the kind of uncritical faith in the political importance of the Armed Forces, which is even now giving rise to military coups d'état and totalitarian regimes in the Third World. Sir Hugh may be concerned with improving the minds and the physiques of the young; still, one may wonder whether it is not to be for the sake of extending beyond its proper sphere and into civilian life the mentality of the military recruit.

The mentality, as Sir Hugh well knows, is one of unquestioning obedience and the suppression of initiative in favour of that of one's superiors. In civilian life such an attitude is conducive only to acquiescence in tyranny. If Sir Hugh would consider the political service have done him harm, I shall not dispute the point; but it is not the qualities of the recruit that have made him a citizen of a free country.

Yours faithfully, DAVID K. ASHWORTH, Peterhouse, Cambridge, April 8.

## Multiracial community

From Mr A. G. Marden. Sir, Up here in Tottenham I have neighbours below and to one side who are of West Indian origin and to the other side who are Irish. Farther down the street are people of Greek, Indian and Jewish backgrounds.

Come the summer, when it seems everybody is improving some part of their home, I swap my chisels and power tools for their ladders and paint brushes. When somebody is changing an engine or his car, he can count on the loan of a working lamp or a strong arm if he needs it.

My neighbour below has difficulty reading her electricity meters, so I read them for her. She cooks a mean brandy cake.

These are all tentative steps toward building a community. Naturally there are areas of sensitivity and suspicion. This is to be expected, and a resentment that Mr Powell, who commutes between a cosy house in Westminster and a Northern Irish constituency should, by his public pronouncements, be jeopardizing these first steps toward a true multiracial community.

Yours sincerely, TONY MARDEN, 149 Varsity Road, N15.

## Crime and punishment

From Mr Giles Playfair. Sir, A large notice on display in the Tube trains warns us that London Transport will "press for maximum penalties for anyone committing an assault on members of the staff".

While saying amen to that, one nevertheless detects in it an uncomfortable note of discrimination. What about the passengers? What sort of penalties will London Transport press for in cases of assault on them? Moderate penalties? Or no penalties? After all, the staff are paid reasonably well for whatever risk they may run, whereas the poor passengers pay for it at an exorbitant rate—some 60 times in excess of the prewar price.

Yours etc, GILES PLAYFAIR, 126 Cranbrook Road, W4, April 9.

## Computer sensibility

From Mr John Turing. Sir, My late brother, Alan Turing, a mathematical genius and a founding father of the modern computer, remarked some thirty years ago that he could foresee a day when a computer could write a sonnet "but it might not be a very good sonnet". This was duly reported in The Times and caused quite a stir at the time. The qualification "not a very good sonnet" may be of some consolation to Mr Levin (article April 2). Yours faithfully, JOHN TURING, 158 Prince George Avenue, Southgate, N14.

## he right to work

From Professor J. W. Bruegel. Sir, In spite of all his eloquence, Bernard Levin is at least a hundred years behind the times with his theory (April 8) that "it is the business of the state to do no more than hold the ring for the activities of its citizens". His attempts to oust the notion of the "right to work" fall flat in view of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by the United Kingdom on May 20, 1976. Article

of this document states unambiguously: "The right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will make appropriate steps to safeguard this right."

The next paragraph in article 6 indicates the steps to be taken under conditions safeguarding fundamental, political and economic freedoms to the individual. No less objectionable is Mr Levin's thesis, proclaimed "not before, that freedom has not got anything to do with material cir-

cumstances". The inherent relationship between freedom and material circumstances has been defined by the German poet, Georg Herwegh, some 150 years ago: "Brecht das Doppelgeiz entzweit! Brecht die Not der Tyrannen! Brecht die Tyrannen der Not! Brot ist Freiheit, Freiheit Brot!" (Break the double-yeast into pieces! Break the misery of tyranny! Break the tyranny of misery! Bread is freedom, freedom bread.) Yours faithfully, J. W. BRUEGEL, 21 Connaught Drive, NW11, April 8.















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
investment and  
finance,  
pages 18 and 19

### Stock markets

FT Ind 551.3 up 1.5  
FT Gilt 69.68 up 0.31

### Sterling

\$ 2.1820 down 130 pts  
Index 99.2 unchanged

### Dollar

Index 101.5 up 0.1  
DM 2.1527 up 112 pts

### Gold

\$ 492.50 down 56

### Money

3 mth sterling 12½-12¾  
3 mth Euro \$ 16-15½  
6 mth Euro \$ 16-15½

### IN BRIEF

## Accountants study closure of Bristol port

Bristol City Council has called a firm of international accountants to undertake a special appraisal of the Port of Bristol, including an assessment of the possibility of closure of the port.

Part of the brief will be to calculate the cost of shutting down the entire port operation, including the cost of the Port of Bristol Authority, which was set up only four years ago at a cost of £45m.

This move comes after the loss of £25m over the past four years. Its traffic has been sharply cut by the recession.

### Oil price up £176

Oil is raising the price of its Metro by £176 to £3,730 a ton tomorrow. Other oil prices will also rise between 70 cent and 5 per cent.

### Swat oil for BP

BP yesterday denied that it stopped taking oil from Iraq because of a dispute over premium payments. The company said it had not been suspended.

### Electricity take less

Electricity take less receipts by £9m to £25m in March, the lowest level since June and the outcome for April expected to be lower still. Seasonal drop is not unusual in March, but the competition from coal savings and budgetary restraints have exacerbated the situation.

### BP cuts tanker staff

BP is to cut the 1,550-strong staff of its United Kingdom tanker fleet by 210 as a result of depressed demand and the sale of some of its ships. BP has also said that it is seeking reductions of 307 in its tanker fleet officer

### F hearing adjourned

House of Commons adjourned its hearing of the High Court case for an order to force the company to hold a meeting of its shareholders to elect a new board of directors in an attempt to control the company has adjourned until Tuesday.

### Rate lower

Aggressive bidding for Treasury Bills yesterday kept a further fall in rates. Average rate of discount at a new three-month bill auction fell from 11.43 to 10.95 per cent.

### Personal clearance

Ministerial approval has been given to permit the unit trust industry to deal in traded securities.

### Personal investment and finance, page 18

### Street higher

Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.44 points up at 1,000.27. The S&P 500 was 142. The £ was 0.554986.

## Hedderwick is 'hammered' hours before merger with Exchange chairman's firm

By Catherine Gunn and Richard Allen

Hedderwick's ill-fated merger with the Exchange chairman's firm was hammered at 5 pm yesterday only hours before it was due to be announced. The firm was unable to complete the deal, and its chairman, Mr. Nicholas Goodison, was forced to announce the failure of the deal.

The decision to declare Hedderwick in default and forbid it to continue trading was taken yesterday afternoon by a full meeting of the Stock Exchange Council.

It hampered the normal rule that hedderwicks have to be announced on the Stock Exchange floor within trading hours. Mr. Wallis Hunt, Hedderwick's senior partner, had already ceased trading at 3 pm in line with the original merger terms, although by that stage it was already clear that the merger at least was in jeopardy.

The first hint of trouble came when Quilter's financial year, and 11 of the 22 Hedderwick partners, were unable to meet the merger terms.

Quilter had asked Touche Ross, the accountants, to examine Hedderwick's business in preparation for the merger. The accountants discovered problems at Hedderwick yesterday morning.

Hedderwick is said to be owed between £1m and £2m by an unnamed firm of fund managers who either cannot or will not pay the debt.

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Mr. Wallis Hunt, Hedderwick's senior partner, had already ceased trading at 3 pm in line with the original merger terms.

Although a small two-man partnership was hammered earlier this year, Hedderwick is the first big firm to be declared in default and prevented from trading since the stock market crash of 1974.

Then a number of firms went to the wall, including Milton, Butler & Priest, and Chapman & Rowe.

The term hammered comes from pre-war days when the

chairman of the Stock Exchange would draw attention to the impending announcement of a default by walking onto the market floor and banging a gavel.

Now, however, such announcements are made during market hours by the sound of three bells over the market's broadcasting system.

Under Stock Exchange rules hedderwicks should normally be made in market hours to ensure all operators are aware of the decision.

But improved communications make these rules superfluous and they are often waived. Announcements made outside hours are posted in the market place.

The Stock Exchange announced that, accordingly, the company and the following were in default: Messrs Wallis Hunt, Robin Hugh, John Montague, Anthony Booth, John Byrom, William Stanley Callingham, Ian Melville Calveorelli, Harold Thomson Cowie, Christopher Hugh Curtis, John Leigh Garner, Peter Winwood Gossage, John George Alan Grumbler, Peter Charles Hill, Peter Bryant Hillier, Peter Holdsworth Hunt, Peter Campbell Kay, Timothy Yezman Laiden, Simon Patrick Meredith Hardy, Charles Henry Noble, Anthony Daniel Harry Sinclair, Sir Peter Troubridge, David Harold Watson, and John David Welchman.

Quilter was not going to take on Hedderwick's debts with the rest of the firm. In January five senior equity analysts left Hedderwick to take up appointments elsewhere in the City. They included Mr. Stewart Walsley, the top-ranked chemicals analyst, who joined W. Greenwell and the financial and resources teams.

ERC will gradually invest the proceeds in suitable small companies, charging the company a fee of 31 per cent. This expense will effectively be offset by the fact that the company will need to give no commitment of dividend income as the company is entirely aiming at capital growth.

As the proceeds are invested the owners of the stock become shareholders in the company. The company's so any failures will be allowable against their income tax. They will be able to dispose of their investment by selling the entire holding either to a willing buyer or back to Electra as a buyer of last resort.

On each investment EIT will have the option of taking a stake of up to 15 per cent of the ERC stake.

Mr. John MacGregor, Under Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday acknowledged that the scheme would be a useful way of testing the willingness of private investors to invest in small companies.

Electra and Messel admit they are entirely in the dark about the possible success of the offer. It depends entirely on private individuals rather than institutions. If less than £7.5m of stock is applied for the plan will be abandoned.

It is not known to what extent the tax concession—Section 37 of the Finance Act 1980—has been used by small investors as a protection against losses.

Mr. Michael Stoddart, ERC chairman, comments: "It is evident that the conditions applicable to the proposed relief are extremely restrictive."

Should the conditions be significantly relaxed during the passage of the Finance Bill through Parliament, the company will reconsider the position.

ERC will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of EIT. Applications for the scheme will be accepted from April 24 and minimum subscription is £10,000. Successful applicants will be awarded loan stocks which will earn interest at the rate of 31 per cent below the overnight bank rate. Only half of the payment for the stock will be called in the first year and half in the second.

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Electra and Messel admit they are entirely in the dark about the possible success of the offer. It depends entirely on private individuals rather than institutions. If less than £7.5m of stock is applied for the plan will be abandoned.

It is not known to what extent the tax concession—Section 37 of the Finance Act 1980—has been used by small investors as a protection against losses.

Mr. Michael Stoddart, ERC chairman, comments: "It is evident that the conditions applicable to the proposed relief are extremely restrictive."

Should the conditions be significantly relaxed during the passage of the Finance Bill through Parliament, the company will reconsider the position.

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Redundancy

## Why encourage such a spending spree?

Once upon a time redundancy was the sort of nasty accident which happened to other people; and long-term unemployment did not happen at all unless you were insane or incompetent or both.

Well, those times have gone. Nowadays the best and the brightest are quite likely to find themselves more or less permanently on the industrial scrap heap; and sooner or later that may very well mean dependence on the state.

Unfortunately, however, the state takes the view that its help should be restricted only to the deserving (that is, those ready and willing to work if the right work comes along) who happen to be poor as well.

So once the unemployment benefit runs out (after a year for those on the flat-rate; the earnings related supplement—which is shortly to be phased out anyway—never lasted for more than six months), it is necessary for those brought up on the notion that some income ought to be put by, to reverse the habits of a life-time and to spend their savings instead.

Supplementary benefit, which is designed to keep the wolf from the door when unemployment benefit runs out, is not paid to anyone with savings in excess of £2,000. And savings, in this context, covers not merely money in the bank or the building society, but also investments of all varieties, including any life assurance policies such as whole life or endowment on which there is a surrender value. This, believe it or not, despite the Government's active encouragement of such long-term savings, which can carry a substantial measure of protection too, through tax relief.

All that is excluded is the individual's home (if he/she is an owner occupier), and personal possessions such as clothes, furniture and a car.

Now, granted that no taxpayer will take kindly to the notion that the state should maintain an individual with enough in the bank to maintain himself, there are still a couple of strong objections to be raised against this policy.

First of all there is the issue of principle. This is an incentive to spending, rather than saving. In particular, it is an incentive to spending the redundancy payments which are the only capital sum which those individuals most likely to become unemployed will ever acquire.

The arguments for retaining the cash as a cushion against further misfortune simply disappear towards the end of the first year of unemployment—unless, of course, the sum is sufficient to provide an income in excess of supplementary benefit. But that would have to be quite some sum.

In addition to rent (or mortgage interest payments) and rates, anyone on supplementary benefit is given an allowance to cover his living expenses.

A married man with two children under 11, for instance, would be getting just short of £50 a week. Assuming that his mortgage interest payments and rates were worth a further £100 a month, he would have to be able to earn £75 a week—or £3,750 a year—from his savings, to make it worth his while to hang onto anything in excess of £2,000.

Even at present interest rates, and assuming that he paid no tax at all, that means he would have to have accumulated £30,000. If he had anything between £2,000 and £30,000 at the point at which it became obvious that he would have to go onto supplementary benefit, the best thing he could do with this capital would be to spend it as soon as possible. Mind you, he would have to spend it carefully. The Supplementary Benefits Commission take a dim view of applicants who have wasted their substance on riotous living (that is, those who have taken lengthy holidays in the South Seas, or purchased expensive motor cars, or otherwise spent the money in ways quite at variance with the standards of living to be expected of other people in their position).

They also take a dim view of people who give the money away in handouts. There is no point in giving it to your wife and children anyway, since it is the whole of the family's assets that are taken into account in assessing resources.

Where the money has disappeared in ways which cannot subsequently be explained to the Commission's satisfaction, they have powers to inquire into the claimant and refuse him benefit on the grounds that he has squandered the money in a way which could be very awkward if the money simply cannot be recovered.

It is, however, permissible to spend on a house, for example by making major repairs ahead of the bad times to come; on consumer durables, by buying a "suitable" car maybe, or a

new set of carpets; and on certain capital items.

It is legitimate to pay off the mortgage, but it is not a good idea, particularly if most of the monthly payments that you make are interest, which the DHSS will pay for you.

It is also legitimate to spend on buying a more expensive house, though it might be difficult to find a lender prepared to make an advance (though council tenants wanting to buy their homes have a built-in advantage if they apply while under notice, since councils are obliged to refrain from taking their future prospects into account). It is legitimate to buy a deferred annuity with a view to boosting income at some time in the future (deferred annuities have no surrender value).

Such stratagems apart, however, the fact of the matter is that the present system promotes extravagance among the unemployed, while it encourages thrift (for example, by tax reliefs on long-term savings) in everyone else. And the balance ought to be redressed.

In an ideal world the answer might be to exempt savings up to the limit at which they produce an income equal to supplementary benefits—taking an objective figure (for instance, the rate of interest on the NSB savings account) as the assumed yield, to get round the problem of the wide boys who would pop the lot into gold or land for the sake of the capital appreciation.

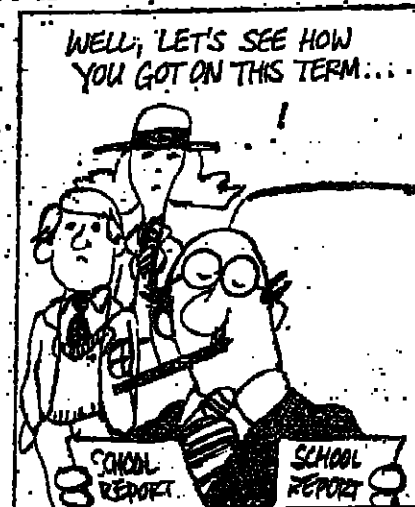
Of course, that would leave people who had managed to accumulate savings (or who had held onto their redundancy payments) better off than those who had not; but then every form of encouragement to savings and investment relies on doing precisely that.

Since this is not an ideal world, the best that can be hoped for is an increase in the savings limit. That was only brought in November last year, but the previous limit (£1,200, with every £50 over that to £2,000 penalised in view of the 25p a week), had been in force since the mid-1960s, and prices have more than trebled since.

The present limit—the second of the objections to the system as it stands—is quite absurdly low, particularly in view of the Budget moves to exempt from tax all redundancy payments under £25,000.

Adrienne Gleeson

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



## Unit trusts

## Green light for traded option deals

The unit trust industry has been granted permission by the Department of Trade to deal in traded options. But the rules mean this new freedom is not going to be a charter for speculators or for rash dealings by unit trust managers.

There is to be a two-tier structure for unit trusts wishing to deal in traded options. Existing funds, provided they have a unitholder approval for a change in the trust deed, will be able to operate.

But the restrictions will be quite onerous. New unit trusts designed and sold specifically to invest in traded options will not have limits imposed.

Old funds will be able to write up to 50 per cent of the value of their portfolio (provided they have the stock); they will be able to purchase options provided they have the cash to cover the entire operation, and provided that no more than 25 per cent of assets is earmarked for the options (on the basis of purchase at "exercise" prices).

The need for cash cover effectively negates much of the speculative element of purchased options—and makes it likely that fund managers will probably wish to use them only when they want to hedge their position.

It will take three to four months for the funds to get the supplemental deeds passed. Most groups will probably choose to make their general fund the chosen vehicle for investing in traded options here in Amsterdam, the United States or even in Australia.

## Credit

## When the borrowing had to stop

Those dismayed at the growth of free and easy, if not exactly cheap credit, will find much ammunition in the sad tale of Mr Paul Alton, a south Yorkshire reader.

Mr Alton has just turned 22, but the joys of a second Access credit card and a second Access card through a different bank. He now has two separate Access accounts and no one seems to have noticed. The beauty of credit cards as Mr Alton saw it is that you can draw out cash from one to pay the retired monthly minimum on the other. He once transferred £100 in one day.

By this time he had worked his way through several motorbikes graduating to a car by way of a series of hire purchase agreements. What did not go on payments went on petrol and running costs. A young man had

had acquired an Access and Barclaycard. Both soon offered an increase in credit limits which he gratefully accepted. He was finding it hard to meet his HP payments.

He then acquired a Trustee Savings Bank credit card and joy of joys a second Access card through a different bank. He now has two separate Access accounts and no one seems to have noticed. The beauty of credit cards as Mr Alton saw it is that you can draw out cash from one to pay the retired monthly minimum on the other. He once transferred £100 in one day.

By this time he had worked his way through several motorbikes graduating to a car by way of a series of hire purchase agreements. What did not go on payments went on petrol and running costs. A young man had

to have clothes. That was easy. At around this time many high street shops climbed on the credit card bandwagon. He went into Burtons and John Galt and opened accounts finding himself with another £250 or so of credit immediately.

Mr Alton says that the possession of a credit card seems to inspire confidence in potential lenders. When he had finally exhausted all avenues he applied to Western Trust for the £1,000 and got it. The trouble was that his monthly Barclaycard statement, drawn through the door on the same day, bearing the offer of a Master Loan for which he sent off just in case Western Trust turned him down. Heaster struck. He got both.

He did not have to declare the one to the other because when he applied he had not

either. The £2,000 more than covered his debts. But the repayments amounted to £70 a month out of his £200 take-home pay. He sold the car and bought himself a push-bike. But soon he began to feel rich again. He lived at home with his parents who did not charge him very much. And he had some cash in hand from the loan.

He bought another car, the splendidly upholstered Cortina he still drives around in. It was not quite as splendid when he bought it, mind, but after an orgy of repairing and reupholstering and needless to say re-borrowing, it was transformed into the highly individual vehicle he has today. Complete with wall to wall carpeting, floor to roof take full of luxuries, a sun roof and a tassel interior finish that would be the envy of a Middle East taxi driver.

He reckons he has spent £3,000 at least on the car. It was all downhill after this. He was up against his credit limits on everything. Then Western Trust let him increase his loan twice. He borrowed elsewhere too. He got £250 from Lloyds & Scottish. By January 1980 he had run up monthly commitments of £200 against take-home pay of £215. So it was back to Lloyds & Scottish for another £300.

He stopped off at a local corner shop moneylenders for a further £100, again no questions asked, before eventually calling a halt in the new year. Well, not quite a halt because he has borrowed a little since.

Mr Alton is unbelievably real. He has a lovely Mum, an optimistic fiancée and of course a splendid car. He knows he is to blame for his problems but he has this to say:

"You see all these companies offering you money. You get sucked in and you do not realise what can happen to you until it is happening. I wish it had not all been so easy. I wish the companies had looked a bit harder. I did not make any false statements along the way, not that I know. One thing just led to another."

Margaret Drummond



Mr Paul Alton: "You get sucked in... I wish it had not been so easy."

## Investor's week

## How much steam left in market?

As I write the space shuttle *Cape Canaveral* is still on the ground, but the stock market shuttle has lifted off. They tell me that the luckless astronauts will fall blood rushing to their heads as their craft gathers speed, but the same thing has happened to investors in London this week.

Up went the FT all-share index of 30 stocks to new peaks and onward and upward climbed the FT index of 30 industrials from 539.6 to 551.3. But, as the week closed, we were left tantalised and breathless. The door marked 558.3, first opened on May 4, 1979 when we celebrated the Iron Lady's victory, has still to give.

Not for the first time, the staid, sedate and sober men who study those things warned us against impetuosity. Some, such as Chart Analysis, pointed to the acceleration in the stock market shuttle's rate of climb and said it could not go on indefinitely.

Brokers Sheppard and Chase, and Laurie Milbank, talked of the market as "technically overbought."

When the number of equity bargains rises above 30,000, as it did a few days ago, one sees their point. Activity at this pitch is in historical terms frantic. A rise, virtually uninterrupted, from 446 in January in the FT index of 30 stocks does indeed make one feel dizzy. A dividend yield of only 5.6 per cent in the

FT all-shares index looks desirous.

The yield gap against gilt-edged is wide, though not as wide as it has been. Moreover, the share buying looks indiscriminate. If you believe that double-figure inflation will return, you buy beneficiaries like food retailers, stores and property. The market did.

If you believe that the Iron Lady is conquering inflation then you can do better than buy manufacturers, hitherto beset by soaring costs of new plant and of financing stocks. The market has done this too.

Finally, it is obvious that a lot of shares are rising for no other reason than that the market as a whole is going up.

This week we ignored the way Automotive Products turned £12.7m of profits into £3.07m taxable losses, but marked the virtually unchanged dividend and signs of upturn in trading. Glyndwr, one of the market's favourite high yielders, cut its pay-out by a fifth, but the market thought the profits fall could have been worse: the shares rose with relief.

Down went the 1980 profits of Bawater, but up went the shares on a maintained dividend and thoughts of the group's timberlands in the United States, and the oil and coal that might be beneath them. But British Sugar shares faltered after reports that S. & W. Berisford might not bid after all.

Peter Wainwright

## MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
250p	137p	Barratt Doves	8p to 243p	Interest rate hopes
180p	148p	Bowthorpe	15p to 178p	Year's figures please
189p	122p	Carless Capel	11p to 146p	Humbly Grove oil hopes
91p	72p	M. Meyer	6p to 88p	Big talk revives
164p	127p	GKN	16p to 164p	Recovery hopes

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
420p	362p	BP	4p to 378p	Out of fashion
194p	130p	Northern Foods	3p to 187p	Profit taking
206p	156p	KCA	18p to 182p	Prelim figures
143p	114p	Morgan Crucible	5p to 138p	Year's figs disappoint
142p	72p	NCC Energy	13p to 121p	End of US com bid talk

## Round-up

## CU's progressive policy

Commercial Union is the latest insurance company to tackle the need for insurance linked to rising premiums—which provide more realistic benefits at the end of the day.

Its Progressive Saver policy is a 10-year contract with premiums automatically increasing by 10 per cent a year compounded for the first five years—lifting the estimated maturity value by 45 per cent. The policy is sold in chunks of £5 (net premium) a month with a minimum investment of £15.

Lionel and Dorothy Geon, who resigned from the board of Langham Life in February following a "disengagement" policy, have re-emerged in a group with Lloyds Life: The Fair Share Investment Plan for Women, which they launched last week, has many of the

characteristics of the WISP policies which they developed at Langham Life, but is more flexible in respect of continuing cover during pregnancy. This is to be the flagship policy of the new Dorothy Geon Women's Financial Service.

Premium Life Assurance has launched a tenth fund, Premium Life Data Managed, which is to have worldwide coverage of equities, gilts and currencies, and to be managed (by Stockport-based Analysed Investment Data Services) on chartist lines. The investment managers have run a similar fund since October 1979, which has produced twice the growth of the FT Index, but the period is too short to provide a basis for judging performance. Other funds run on these lines have been disappointing.

## The Law Land Company, Limited

GROUP'S BUSINESS—Investment in and development of real property and in Australia property trading.

	1980	1979
TURNOVER		
Investment	6,010,719	5,148,855
Trading	4,803,731	4,873,893

PROFIT after taxation, minority interest and exceptional items (1979 and transfer from capital of £2,000 relating to development properties)	421,424	268,614
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EARNINGS per 20p Ordinary Share	1.15p	0.72p
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ORDINARY DIVIDEND per share for the year	1.50p	1.25p
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COST OF ORDINARY DIVIDENDS (interim payable on 23.6.81 £1.50 and transfer from capital of £2,000 relating to development properties)	552,706	443,353
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UNDISTRIBUTED PROFITS carried forward	829,500	763,145
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PROPERTIES		
Investment	63,867,292	64,128,268
Trading	3,775,914	4,420,725

The directors estimate that a valuation of investment properties would show a net surplus in excess of £11 millions over the book value.

No credit has been taken for this in the accounts, but if it were the net asset value would be about 148p per ordinary share, or fully diluted 132p.

Trading properties are stated at aggregate cost, which is lower than aggregate valuation.

REGISTERED OFFICE

Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 7EP

**SCOTTISH PROVIDENT**

**Record Bonuses**

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr James A. Lumsden, MBE, TD, DL, LLB.

**1980 Bonus Declaration**

This year our results have enabled us not only to maintain the record rate of bonus of 65% p.a. declared three years ago on major immediate-profits assurance policies, but also to add a special further bonus of 25% of all previously declared bonuses attaching to each of these policies. This means that the effective rate of the bonus figures announced is significantly improved for policies of long duration, and indeed, can exceed 86% p.a. for some annuities and 'E' Type retirement benefits. The rate of bonus declared has been increased to 67% p.a. compared with the then record announcement of 66.40% p.a. three years ago and, in addition, these policies too will receive the special 25% bonus on bonus.

For the future we shall be compounding bonuses every year instead of once every three years, which will have the effect of increasing quite markedly the value of a given rate of bonus. For example, the current interim bonus rate of 4.85% p.a. payable on immediate-profits assurances is equivalent to 45.09% p.a. compounded triennially—and the rate of 66.75% p.a. payable on self-employed deferred annuities and the 'E' Type retirement plans is equivalent to 77.22% p.a. compounded triennially. In addition, our strong investment position has enabled us to increase significantly the claims bonus payable on policies becoming claims by death or

manipulation as well as to increase the number of policies entitled to this bonus—policies which entered the appropriate with-profits class in 1974 or earlier now qualify.

**Five to Ten Plan**

Earlier this year we extended our range of open-ended assurances with the introduction of our Five to Ten Plan, which, as the name suggests, caters for the medium term saver. Fundamentally, the contract is a ten year with-profit termination assurance, but it provides for period by guaranteeing a basis for the calculation of a termination value (the actual amount will depend on bonuses) at the end of the ten year period. The plan has been very well received by our brokers and other agents—and its uses have included a number of specific applications such as the provision of school fees or the repayment of loans.

**Broker registration**

Last year I welcomed the steps insurance brokers were taking to maintain and indeed raise professional standards. It can only be to the benefit of the public that advice on insurance matters is readily available from an independent intermediary with a wide knowledge of the market. Accordingly, we would favour an increasing proportion of insurance business being dealt with by insurance brokers, and an intensification of efforts to ensure that those who are not brokers do not represent themselves as such to the public.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available on request from the Head Office, The Scottish Provident Institution, 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA.

**SCOTTISH PROVIDENT**



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

friendly societies

## Small savers find favour

Normally I am opposed to discrimination but I do find it difficult to turn my nose up at a little tax-efficient friendly society—just because they are not available to one and all. In fact, only married men and mothers need to read further.

Friendly societies are a Victorian legacy which continue to flourish. Originally they were formed to provide funeral expenses or modest sick pay, but later they placed emphasis on conventional life assurance cover—with an important difference.

Friendly societies, unlike life assurance companies, are permitted to invest on a risk-free basis so that their clients, who pay for their premiums, have all the advantages of investing in a tax-exempt fund. In fact, restrictions are placed on the investments of friendly societies making too much of a thing out of friendly societies.

In the first place, only those dependants, defined as a husband or wife, or a child, or a grandchild, are eligible because the death benefits have to be paid to just one dependant. However, the policy can be surrendered at any time by the policyholder, and the cash value of the policy can be used to make a loan.

But to make the most of a friendly society policy, it should be for at least 10 years. If it is indeed because the minimum surrender value of the policy is permitted to be before the first 10 years up, is the return of gross premiums paid.

The third restriction on friendly society investment is that the actual amount you can invest is limited. The minimum premium is £26 a year or £20.60 a month, double the amount of the first year's premium. With most policies you can either pay the premium monthly, half-yearly or annually; another policy is to make a policy half rates, that is £10.30 a month or £123.60 annually.

With the roll-up of tax free investments, friendly societies based upon the conventional life assurance endowment formula, where the benefits are decreed by the actuary, are a good value. But the extent of unit-linking has made them more obviously attractive, here are now five friendly

FRIENDLY SOCIETY UNIT-LINKED FUNDS	
Friendly society	Portfolio breakdown
Family Assurance Capital	Equities (75%), equities (25%)
Britannia Unit Fund	Equities (50%), M & G Pensions Exempt (50%)
General Building Society Plan	Equities (50%), other Britannia funds (50%)
Homeowners Prosperity Plan	Building society selection (100%)
Fleet Friendly Bonds	Building society selection (100%)
St. Andrew's Capital Security	Local authority stock (100%)
Lancs & Yorks Capital Stock	Equities (80%) local authority (20%)

societies which have adopted the unit-linked principle offering investors, between them, a choice of 11 funds in which to invest.

Regulations control at least 50 per cent of the underlying fund: under the provisions of the Trustee Act 1961 at least 50 per cent of premiums must be invested in what are known as "narrow range" securities—cash, bank deposits, gilts, building society deposits and local authority stock. The balance can be invested in equities and authorized unit trusts.

Family Assurance is the doyen of this particular class of friendly societies, and it offers the most comprehensive selection. Its "A" fund is closed to newcomers but the policyholders who got in at the beginning have seen their fund almost triple in five years.

Its "D" fund, 100 per cent in gilts, has almost doubled in five years while the Capital fund with a 75 per cent gilts-25 per cent equity portfolio, has done better still, and is up nearly 70 per cent in 12 months.

These results are comfortably in excess of the 12.5 per cent a year return which is the conventional growth projection for tax-exempt funds. (It compares with the 7.5 per cent annual return estimated for tax-bearing investments.)

On the other hand, some of the building society-linked friendly societies plans work on a higher assumption because of favourable investment returns from the chosen building society.

So, for example, the Homeowners Friendly Society, which

invests exclusively in the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, quotes projected returns of over 15 per cent.

While interest rates remain high, the friendly society schemes linked to high income bearing investments will look attractive, as indeed are the available past returns (covering a period of high interest rates).

The stronger equity content of some funds, on the other hand, could prove as impressive in the future. Both Britannia and Framlington, whose funds have been chosen as linking vehicles by Family and Fleet respectively, have shown up well on the performance tables.

Charges vary with each of the friendly societies, but on balance, are moderate, and are basically taken at the outset. Family, for example, allows only the investment of four months' premiums in the first year, St. Andrew's withholds 50 per cent of the first year's premium, Fleet takes £50 out of the first year's premium. In addition there is an annual management charge usually of 1 per cent.

Although the amounts that can be invested are relatively modest, that is no reason to turn your back on another useful form of investment if you qualify either as a married man or a mum.

You get tax relief on your premiums (which you pay net) which means that every £20.60 a month you save another £3.62 (the tax relief) is invested on your behalf. And you get all the benefit of investing in a fund which rolls up free of all taxes.

Margaret Stone

## Tax problems and housing

1972 I purchased the freehold of a house for £15,800. It was a condition of the purchase that the protected tenant, an elderly widow, who had access to several parts of the building, should be re-housed in a self-contained flat in the basement of the building.

In addition to the purchase, therefore, was the building cost of £11,000. Because of age of employment I was asked by my employer to sell this property in 1977 for £50,000. During the period of my occupation, the protected tenant paid a rental of £2 a week which increased on one occasion to the increase in rate to £2.50 a week.

I used the sale in 1977 to buy the house in my present name and the remainder of the sale proceeds were used to build a new house and more will be used for building work to be done out with the renewal of the house. HM Inspector of taxes is claiming, however, that a gains tax should be paid on the "profit" made from the sale of the house and the price on my original house sale there is a tenancy in view of the fact that this did not even actually



## Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

cover the costs of the tenant this seems particularly hard. Is the inspector correct? (JMcLS, London NW11.)

Unfortunately the inspector of taxes is correct—this may seem hard but capital gains tax is often an inequitable tax on "paper" gains due to inflation. The exemption for an individual's principal private residence is only available for the part of the property actually occupied by him. The one exception to this is where a property is occupied by a dependent relative but this is not likely to apply here.

I am afraid that the way in which you have used the proceeds of sale does not affect the tax position in any way.

The inspector is probably arguing that the exemption should be restricted by reference to the number of rooms occupied by the tenant. However, the legislation is silent as to the way in which the restriction should be calculated. The basement is probably the least valuable part of the house, and it may be argued that the chargeable gain should be ascertained by applying the fraction

market value of let part to the overall gain.

This will be wholly beneficial if the tenant was still in occupation when you sold the

property. So although the inspector is correct in saying that the full exemption cannot apply, you may be able to argue that only a small part of the overall gain is chargeable.

My wife and I are directors of a small private limited company which I founded in 1948. Two years ago, as we are both approaching retirement age, we sold the company to another person, continued to live in this house, which is owned by the company, and in which we have lived for the past 18 years. Apart from our children there are no other shareholders in the company, and no other assets, apart from this house.

If the company sells the house on the open market it will attract an excessive amount of capital gains tax. If, however, HM Inspector of taxes would allow us to purchase the house as sitting tenants, the amount of CGT liability would be considerably reduced. We have obtained two independent valuations of the property based on the assumption that we are sitting tenants. (GN, Oxford.)

It is generally not a good idea for a company to own a property occupied by one of the directors, shareholders, and so on, as his main residence. The capital gains tax exemption, which would apply if the director owns the property personally, is not available to the company. The sale of the property may attract a 30 per cent capital gains charge.

Furthermore, before the shareholder can enjoy profits accumulated within a company, including capital gains, he will have to discontinue his shares either by sale or by having the company liquidated. Such a disposal may in turn attract a further capital gains tax charge. Therefore, owning a main residence through a company can mean a double capital gains tax charge where none would arise if the property had been held personally.

It may be that you intend to dispose of the property in order to purchase a new residence which is more suitable for your retirement. If this is the case, and you intend to dispose of the present property in any event, it may make sense to "take a view on this matter and purchase the property at a tenanted valuation. There is, however, a real possibility of the Revenue invoking anti-avoidance legislation and I would normally be inclined to leave matters as they are at present.

If you do intend to proceed with a sale you should speak to the company's accountant and solicitors and see that you are given specific advice concerning the disposal of the property under Section 19(3b) and Section 62(5) Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

You should also ask your professional adviser's views on the possibility of an income tax charge, either under section 233 Taxes Act 1970 or under the rules governing the benefits received in connection with an employment. Much might turn upon whether you have a formal lease from the company; whether the Revenue will accept a "sitting tenant" valuation will depend upon the particular facts of the case.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## No breakthrough but strong rise continues

Equities began the long three-week Easter account in good form yesterday, attempting to pull out all the stops in an effort to see the FT Index break through its all-time high. Dealers again expressed surprise at the strength of demand with prices surging ahead from the outset. Once again attention was focused on the recovery sectors with the market now firmly of the opinion that the worst of the recession is over. Both the book and engineering came in for inquiry, along with electricals for their technology value and rubber plantations on the strength of recent land deals.

However, with stock shortages in several sectors giving exaggerated price movements, a certain amount of profit taking was inevitable after hours. Sentiment was further upset by news that the imminent merger of brokers Quilter, Hilson, Goodson and Henderson, Streeter & Gribbar had been "deferred" for the time being. And later Heddewick was officially "hammered".

In the event, the FT Index, which had been set to scale new heights, closed only 1.5 higher at 551.3, having been 6.5 higher at midday. This leaves it just 7.3 below the all-time high of 558.6 achieved on May 4, 1979.

Once again Government securities were left in the cold by investors who are still weighed down by the many absence of any new tap being announced after hours saw

prices rally slightly, but this was cancelled out by news that Chase Manhattan had increased its prime rate by 1 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent.

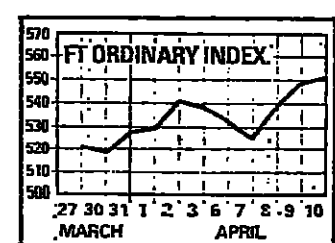
Nevertheless, by the close the tone still remained firm and a few cheap buyers forced rises of between 1/2 and 1 1/2 in longs and 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 in shorts.

Leading industrials spent a relatively quiet day with most buyers' attention focused on the second liners.

Small goods were seen in ICI, up 2p to 266p and British Aerospace, up 2p to 211p. Hawker Siddeley added 2p to 334p and Glaxo shed a similar figure at 223p. Both ahead of figures next week. Bower was able to make further ground on its recent figures and suggestions of a possible United States bid. The shares closed 10p higher at 273p.

Shares of F. Wrighton returned from suspension 11p higher at 75p, with terms of a

bid from Greenbrook. Incheape slipped 2p to 458p after announcing the acquisition of Lloyd's Bank International's South American interest for £11.8m. This meant the issue of another 2.78m shares placed at 430p net.



The movement of the 30-share index over the two-week period.

Elsewhere on the bid front, British Sugar rallied 5p to 308p after recent fears that S & W Berisford, unchanged at 120p,

might not step in with a new bid. But higher terms from Crown House saw Denbyware leap 37p to 125p. Profit taking clipped 11p from Rothmans International "B" at 80p. The group is still in talks with R. J. Reynolds. Royal Bank of Scotland recovered 2p at 166p from worries of a monopolistic reference. Hongkong & Shanghai also rose 2p to 135p but Standard Chartered tumbled 18p to 644p.

Speculative buying was good for 43p on Mercantile House at 663p, 4p on A.I. Industrial at 24p, 7p on ERF Holdings at 45p, 6p on Bernard Priest at 43p, 7p on Neil & Spencer at 50p and 5p on Mitchell Somers at 38p. Comment was good for 10p rise in Scapa Group at 136p and stock shortages benefited Martin the Newsagent 18p to 238p, Waring & Gillow 17p to 169p and Davies & Newman 14p to 168p.

Improved figures, and a £2.5m cash call to shareholders

lifted Fothergill & Harvey 12p to 134p and more than doubled profits lifted Lyle Shipping 10p to 373p. Only Brown Boveri Kent at 191p and Triplevest at 841p failed to impress, both losing 1p each.

Still reflecting recent figures, F. J. C. Lilley added 12p to 150p, Feb International A & B to 92p and Taylor Woodrow rallied 10p to 579p.

Engineering shares had a lively time with most regarded for their recovery potential. Buyers came in for Associated Engineering, 6 1/2p higher at 51 1/2p. Elliott 14p to 190p, Haden Carrier 10p to 288p, IMI 5p to 71p, Laird Group 7p to 135p while the chairman's optimistic remarks boosted Automotive Products 7p to 63p.

Among the leaders, GKN rose 8p to 164p and Tubes 4p to 218p as Trickers hardwired 3p to 150p and Smiths Industries 10p to 350p.

Equity turnover on April 9 was £217.645m (23,363 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were GKN, Waring & Gillow, IMI, Bower, Thorn EMI, Associated News, Thomas Tilling, CEC, Martin the Newsagent, Eagle Star and Tanks. Traditional options saw three month calls in GKN at 11p, Premier Cons at 8 1/2p, Dunlop at 7 1/2p and a double was arranged in ICI at 32p.

Traded options: Dealers reported further strong inquiry with 1,415 contracts completed just slightly below the previous day's level of 1,854.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
F. Austin (I)	3,141.83	1,025.04	1.02	10.16	—	—
Intasun (F)	89,486.31	1,031.02	1.10	6.34	—	—
Chepstow (F)	0.54	0.03	0.03	—	—	—
Fothergill (F)	18.61	1.82	21.99	21.45	—	—
File Shipping (F)	21,591.13	6,621.33	101.9	53.0	—	—
Monroe Boston (F)	1,451.02	0.14	0.14	—	—	—
F. Miller (F)	3.05	2.12	2.12	—	—	—
Rock Durban (F)	1.91	0.24	0.24	—	—	—
Supra Group (F)	9.59	0.81	0.81	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.423. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \* year against nine months. † net. ‡ loss.

## Stone-Platt rescue is left to City

By Richard Allen

Small shareholders in Stone-Platt Industries, the troubled textile machinery and engineering group, have spurned an opportunity to support a survival package for the company by subscribing for new shares.

As a result, City institutions who rallied to back a financial reconstruction package for the company last month will have to meet almost all of the cost of a £10m capital injection.

An open offer for £7m worth of new convertible cumulative preferred ordinary shares, priced at 25p par value, has drawn applications for only £280,000 worth of stock. The rest will be taken up by underwriters to the rescue. These include Equity Capital for Industry, which is owned by institutions, and Finance Corporation for Industry, the medium-term lending institution backed by the banks.

ECI and FCI had already subscribed for £2m and £1m respectively under original arrangements for the issue. Now they will have to take on a further £1.92m and £960,000 worth respectively, lifting their respective stakes in Stone-Platt to 19.5 per cent and 9.75 per cent.

Institutional sub-underwriters will take on the remaining £3.84m worth of the issue. Mr Tim Frankland, of Hill Samuel, advisers to Stone-Platt, yesterday denied that the issue had been a flop. "It has gone almost exactly as planned. A big response from small shareholders had not been anticipated," he said.

He added that institutions who were believed to account for about 70 per cent of Stone-Platt's equity had not subscribed in the knowledge that their demand would be satisfied through the underwriting arrangements.

The £10m injection doubles Stone-Platt's equity with the result that shareholders who did not subscribe will see their holdings effectively diluted by 50 per cent.

## Crown House lifts bid for Denbyware

By Our Financial Staff

Crown House has increased its 80p share offer for Denbyware, the pottery group, to 124p, taking the value of its bid from £3.4m to £5.3m.

Crown House also said that it would not increase its revised offer and that the bid would lapse on April 27 unless it could be declared unconditional. On the first closing date last week the company received only 0.05 per cent of acceptance, to add to its 29.9 per cent holding.

The Denbyware directors, who with friends and associates hold more than 40 per cent of the equity, had called the 80p offer "desertory".

## NCC-Simplicity merger expected within two weeks

By Catherine Gunn

Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, chairman of NCC Energy, hopes to settle merger terms between NCC and Simplicity Pattern of New York within a fortnight. He said yesterday that the merger would effectively give NCC a 50 per cent holding. The new group would also seek a London listing. Mr Ferguson Lacey wishes to turn NCC into a United States-based group because he thinks exchange controls will be reintroduced here.

He said yesterday that the Simplicity Pattern business had seen sales fall in declining market for paper patterns.

One possibility would be the sale of the pattern business

## Intasun seeks unlisted quotation

By Rosemary Unsworth

Intasun Leisure Group is seeking a quote on the unlisted securities market. The holiday tour operator, which specializes in Spain and the United States, is offering 15 per cent of its equity, or 7.745 shares at a minimum tender price of 86p, which would give the whole group a market value of £44.4m.

The directors have estimated that pretax profits for the year to March 31, will be £10.1m, against the previous year's £3m. But the figure includes a spreading of finance costs, including interest of the group's aircraft operation. So the £10m is reduced to £8m against £2.12m for the previous year.

The treatment of the aircraft finance costs was one of the reasons for the group's switch of financial advisers and stockbrokers, and the subsequent delay in the flotation, which was



Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of Intasun Leisure Group.

originally planned for December.

Mr Harry Goodman, the chairman, will remain the largest shareholder with a 39 per cent stake. Sir James Hill & Sons, a

Yorkshire textile and travel group, will hold 17.2 per cent. Other directors will hold a total of 15 per cent of the equity.

About half of the group's holidays are in Spain with 20 per cent going to the United States and the remainder to Malta, Romania, Greece and Italy. Intasun has applied to the unlisted market because it wants to be able to issue marketable securities for acquisitions in future.

Its aircraft subsidiary, Air Europe, has six planes and accounts for 50 per cent of Intasun's own summer capacity. More than £30m has been invested in aircraft operations, which are expected to contribute about £20m of the £100m turnover for 1981.

Estimated earnings a share for 1981 are 9.4p on a notional 52 per cent tax basis and the price-earnings multiple is 9.2. Net assets were £13.6m.

## Briefly

D.M. Lancaster: Turnover for 18 months to December 31, 1980, £5.69m (£187,000 for previous 12 months to June 30, 1979), comprising: 1. Textiles, £3.49m (£117,000); 2. Pretax profits (after interest), £1.45p (£15,000); 3. Dividend, 0.875p gross (£nil).

General & Commercial Investment Trust: Pretax profit for year to March 31, 1981, £27,000 (£735,000). Total dividend, 13.35p (£12.14p) gross.

Watts, Blake, Beane: Sales for 1980, £24.72m (£22.28m). Pretax profits, £3.84m (£3.5m). Gross dividend, 4.54p (£11p, adjusted for scrip issue).

Forward Technology Industries: Turnover for 18 months to December 31, 1980, £65.5m (£51.2m). Pretax profit, £2.91m (£2.1m). E.P.S. (annualized), 9.3p (9.2p). Dividend 11.25p (6.71p).

Greenbank Industrial Holdings: Sales for 18 months to December 31, 1980, £11.80m (£11.92m). Pretax profit £1.62m (£2.08m). Earnings per share 3.49p (4.15p). Dividend, 1.32p gross (£1.91p). CCA pretax profit £1.2m.

Supra Group: Turnover for year to November 30 totalled £9.51m (£9.15m). Pre-tax profit £600,000 (£1,200,000). Earnings per share 2.71p (6.39p adjusted). Final of 1.25p making 2p net (same on smaller capital).

P. Fothergill: Under terms for acquisition of Templestree, additional shares fall to be issued. Profits before tax of Templestree totalled £66,000 so Fothergill is to issue an additional 94,286 shares of the vendors.

F. Austin (Leyton): Sales for half-year to December 31 totalled £3.14m (£2.82m). Pre-tax loss £1.23m (profit £142,000). Net loss is £595,000 (profit £69,000). No dividend (dividend 10.16p net).

F. Miller (Tynes): Sales for year to February 13 totalled £8.04m (£7.96m). Pre-tax profit £2.31m (£2.06m). Dividend 3.14p (£1.91p). Earnings per share 2.71p (6.39p adjusted). Final of 1.25p making 2p net (same on smaller capital).

Montage: Dividend 4.05p net (same) for year to January 31. Revenue £139,000 (£150,500) after tax. Nav per share 62p (£61p).

## Private company bids £3.5m for Wrighton

By Our Financial Staff

Greenbrook, a private British manufacturing company, has offered just over £3.5m for Wrighton, the fitted kitchen maker. The offer has been recommended by Country Bank, advisers to Wrighton, and accepted by the Wrighton family.

The terms of the offer are 77p cash for each of Wrighton's 4.5m ordinary shares, and 50p cash for Wrighton's 5 1/2 per cent redeemable cumulative preference shares. Holders of Wrighton ordinary shares who accept the offer may take unsecured loan stock of Greenbrook instead of cash.

Wrighton shares rose 11p to 75p yesterday. The company's shares jumped in February when a takeover approach was announced without the bidder's identity being revealed. After an erratic profits record over several years, Wrighton lost £180,000 in the six months to the end of last September. Wrighton made £206,000 profit in the year to the end of March 1980.

The Greenbrook bid is something of a formality because Wrighton is 62 per cent controlled by members of Wrighton family and a handful of other shareholders. They have accepted the offer and advised other shareholders to do likewise.

Greenbrook makes double-glazing, the Elizabeth Ann Woodcraft range of kitchen fittings and furniture, and has interests in industrial estate development. The company says it intends to develop and maintain both businesses.

## Fothergill in £4.9m bid and cash call

Fothergill and Harvey, the industrial fibres group, has called on shareholders to put up £2.5m and announced a £4.9m takeover deal.

The group is buying an electrical insulating group, H. D. Symons, which made profits of £1.2m in its last financial year to last April 30. To help finance the deal, Fothergill shareholders are being asked to buy one new share for every three already held.

The price of the new shares is 95p, against a market level of about 118p.

With the takeover deal and cash call, the group also gave news of its 1980 figures. These showed profits had slipped from just over £2m to £1.8m, but shareholders get a maintained dividend of 11.07p gross.

## Bronx expects a first-half loss

At Bronx Engineering Holdings Mr G. B. Crosswhite, chairman, says in his annual statement that the current order book is insufficient to ensure full production during the first half of the year and a loss will almost certainly be incurred. Present indications are that there will not be sufficient recovery by the early summer to enable the group to return to a reasonable level of profit by the year end, he says.

## Laganvale price for Strongmead is £1.23m

The board at Laganvale Estate said that the circular relating to the proposed acquisition of Strongmead has been posted to shareholders. Consideration for the acquisition has been certified at £1.23m in shares.

An extraordinary general meeting to approve the acquisition has been convened for April 27.

## AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

## Summary of the report for the year ended 31 January 1981.

- Net asset value per equity share at 31 January 1981 was 80.6p compared with 65.3p last year, up 23.4 per cent.
- The directors recommend total dividends per equity share of 2.10p compared with 1.85p last year, up 13.5 per cent.
- Virtually all of the company's overseas investment is concentrated in North America, which accounts for 42.9 per cent of equity shareholders' interest. Investment policy has mainly been directed towards smaller companies in fields such as electronics and health care, where there are opportunities not generally available in the U.K.
- The company's commitment to the energy sector was further expanded, largely due to a substantial increase in the value of the holding in The Edinburgh Securities Company Limited, worth £6.46 million compared with £2.80 million last year.
- The principal policy objectives of the company are:
  - (i) Emphasis on investment in North America.
  - (ii) The provision to shareholders of long-term growth of income.
  - (iii) Readiness to have sizeable commitments in small or unquoted companies where there are grounds for confidence in long-term prospects.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the managers and secretaries, Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., at 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB, where the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th May 1981 at 12.15 p.m.

## Bank Base Rates

BN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
CCl	12%
Consolidated Crdts	12%
Hoare & Co	12%
Joyds Bank	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Westminster	12%
SB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 9% over £50,000 10%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
7/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212  
The Over-the-Counter Market

Code	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Grass Div (P)	Yld %	P/E	
75	39	Airsprung Group	72	-1	4.7	6.5	11.4
50	21	Armistead & Rhodes	50	-1	1.4	2.8	20.6
42	92	Bardon Hill	191	-	9.7	5.1	4.9
38	88	Deborah Services	98	-	5.5	5.6	3.3
26	88	Frank Horsell	105	+1	6.4	6.1	3.3
10	39	Frederick Parker	50	-1	1.7	3.4	21.7
10	68	George Blair	68	-1	3.1	4.6	-
10	59	Jackson Group	106	-1	6.9	6.5	4.0
24	103	James Burrough	118	-	7.9	6.7	9.7
3,364		Robert Jenkins	320	-	31.3	9.8	-
55	50	Scrutons "A"	52	-	5.3	10.2	3.8
24	209	Torday Limited	209	-	15.1	7.2	3.6
23	8	Twinnock Ord	111	-	-	-	-
90	69	Twinnock 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.8	-
56	35	Unilock Holdings	45	-	3.0	6.6	6.9
81	81	Walter Alexander	101	-	5.7	5.6	5.6
6	81	255-1	131	-	13.1	5.1	4.4







§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]











